OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS 2

ROBICO

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2

Presented by Robico

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character

Shiro Azuma

Asked out by Aizawa-san, who's in the same school year. The two of them grew close... or so he thinks?

Nozomi Aizawa

A second-year high-school student. She's long harbored an unrequited love for Azuma-kun, and finally confessed... kind of?

And many others

Kazuomi Tamaki

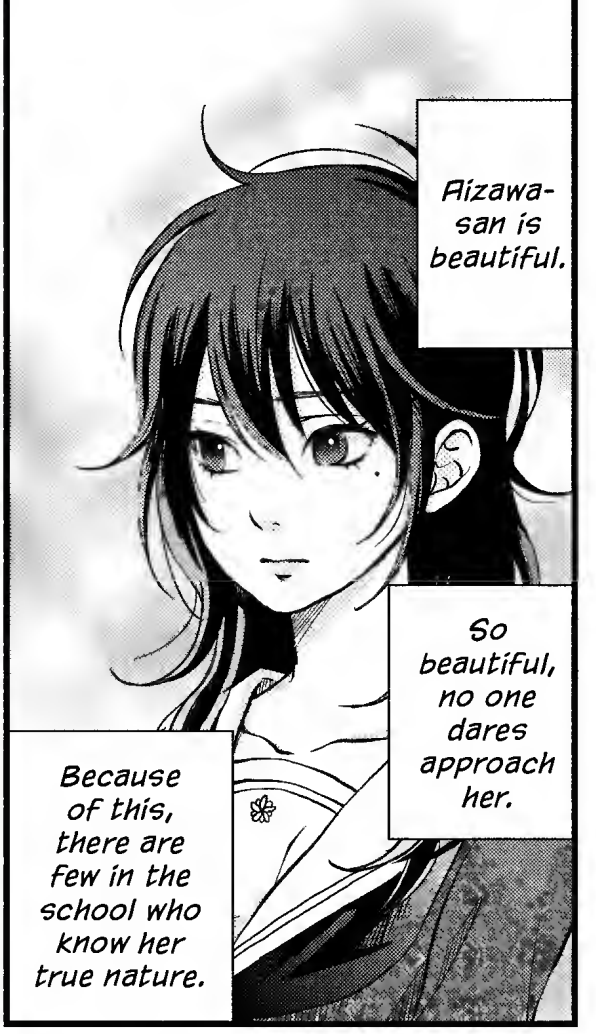
The most popular boy in school. He talked out his worries with the other two, and as a result... got a haircut.

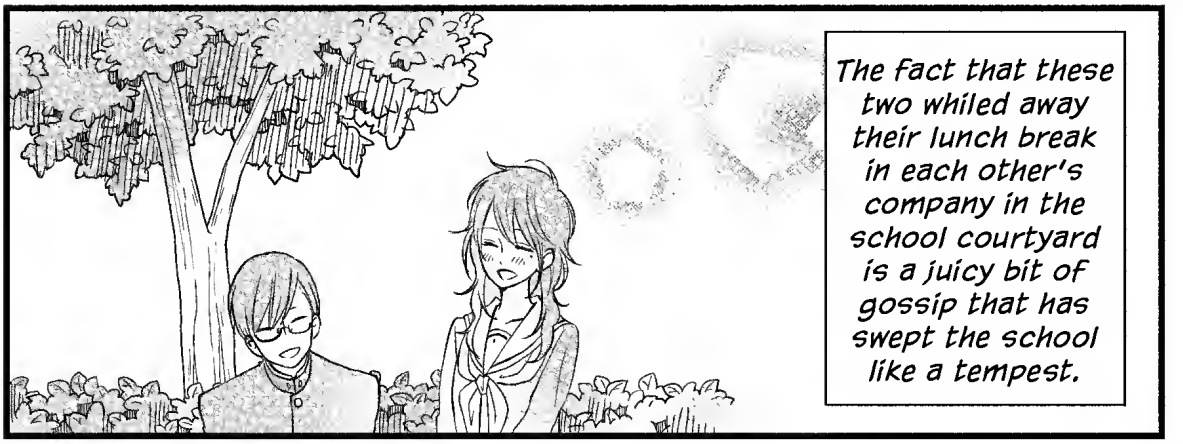
story

Nozomi Aizawa has kept her feelings for her schoolmate Azuma-kun a secret for quite some time, but one day, she gathered her courage and confessed! However, for some reason, one after another things fell apart: her confession was called "wrong," her crush saw her underwear, her handmade presents were criticized, and so on. Undaunted, she continued to converse with Azuma-kun daily, and the two slowly became close, until Azuma-kun invited her to talk at school, as well! Now the two eat lunch together, but what will happen to them there?!

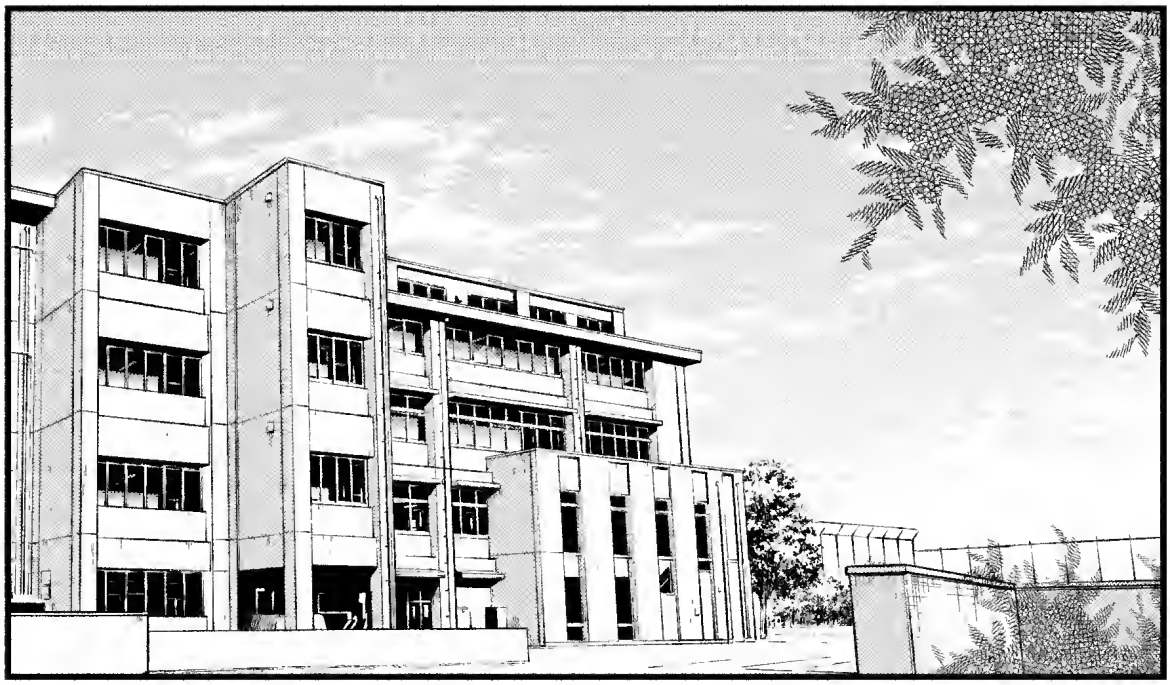
Azuma-kun... Why is it that boys respond to a simple conversation with condescending, unsolicited advice?
Sometimes we just need to show off.

Azuma-kun is famously stubborn.
His unique perspective gets him into arguments time and again.
Without exception, all of his friends call him a weirdo.

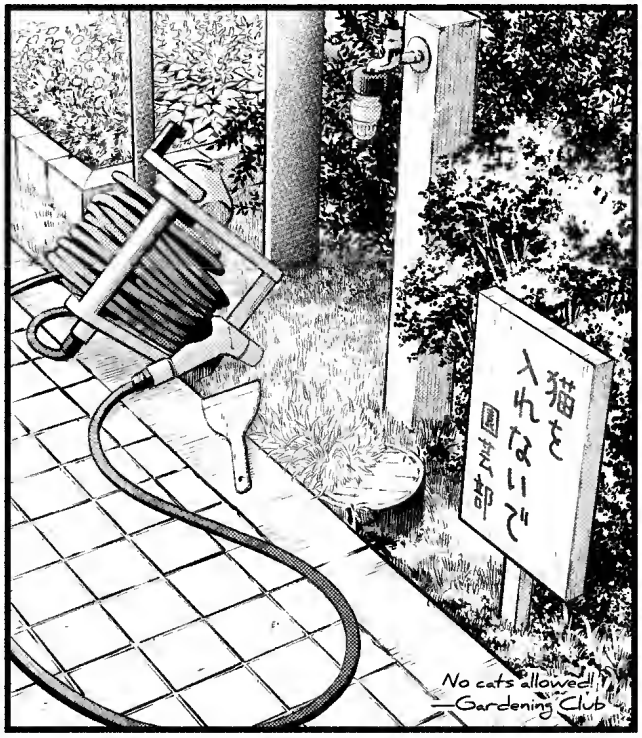

Aizawa-san is beautiful.
So beautiful, no one dares approach her.
Because of this, there are few in the school who know her true nature.

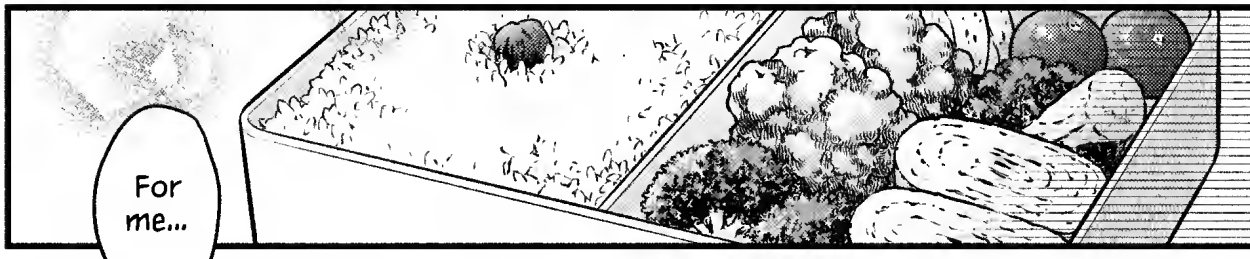

The fact that these two whiled away their lunch break in each other's company in the school courtyard is a juicy bit of gossip that has swept the school like a tempest.

And so, the next day...
bweeeeee~ ba-dap bap bap!



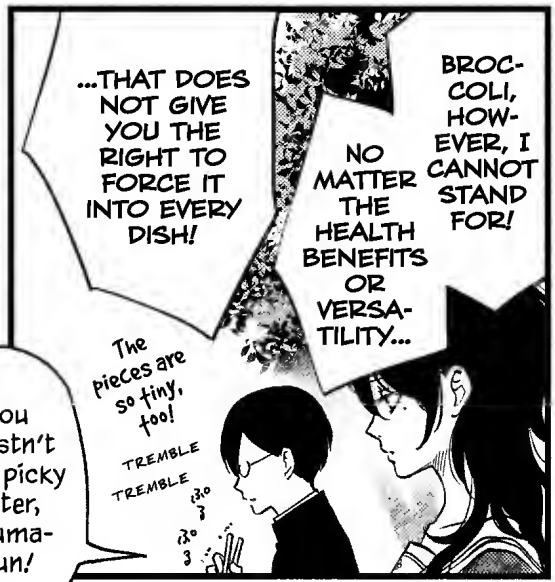
キンコーン
BING
BOOOONG
It is now lunch break.

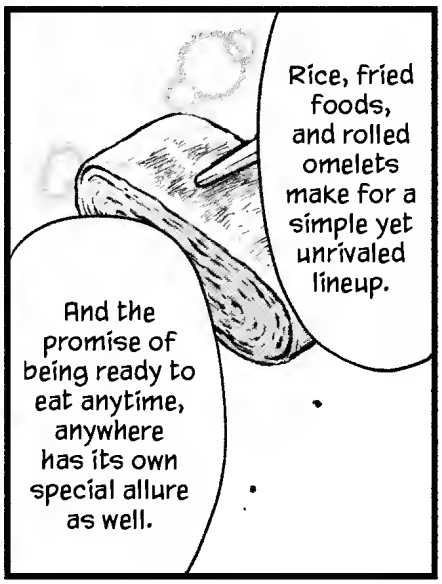

猫を入れないで
園芸部
No cats allowed!
—Gardening Club

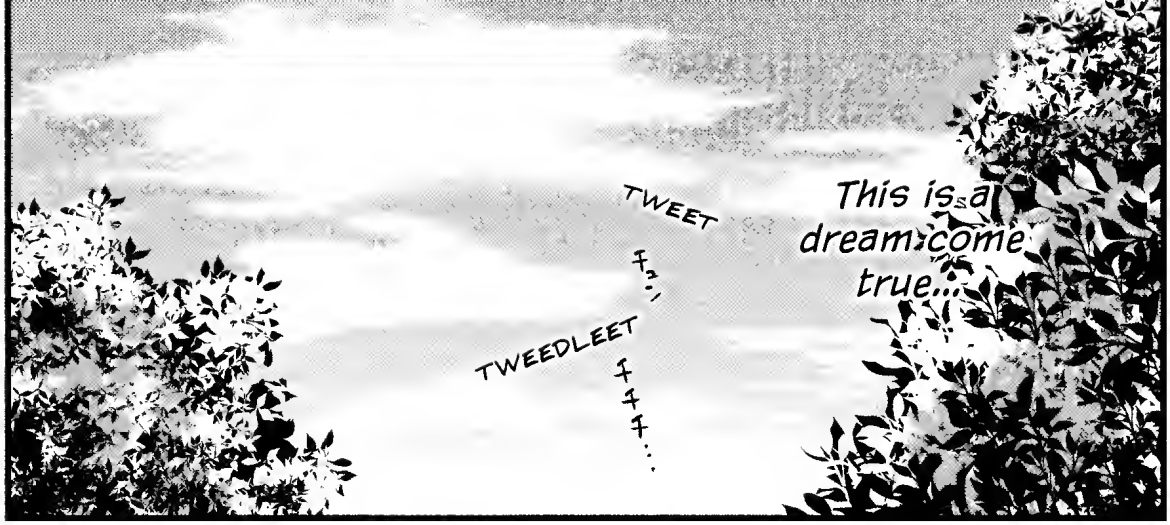

For me...

...boxed lunches are one of the great joys in life.

You mustn't be a picky eater, Azuma-kun!


...THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO FORCE IT INTO EVERY DISH!
NO MATTER THE HEALTH BENEFITS OR VERSA-TILITY...
BROC-COLI, HOW-EVER, I CANNOT STAND FOR!
The pieces are so tiny, too!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

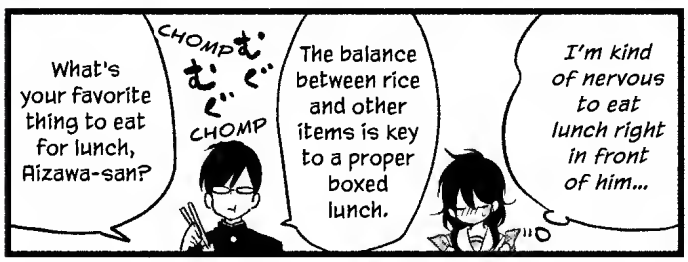

Rice, fried foods, and rolled omelets make for a simple yet unrivaled lineup.
And the promise of being ready to eat anytime, anywhere has its own special allure as well.

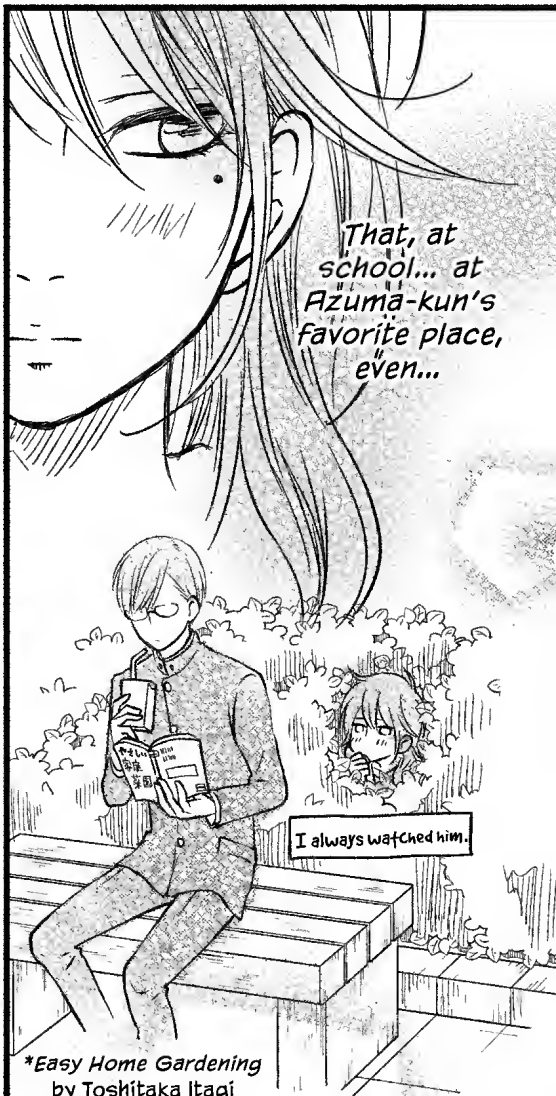

TWEET
チュン
TWEEDLEET
チチチ…
This is a dream come true...

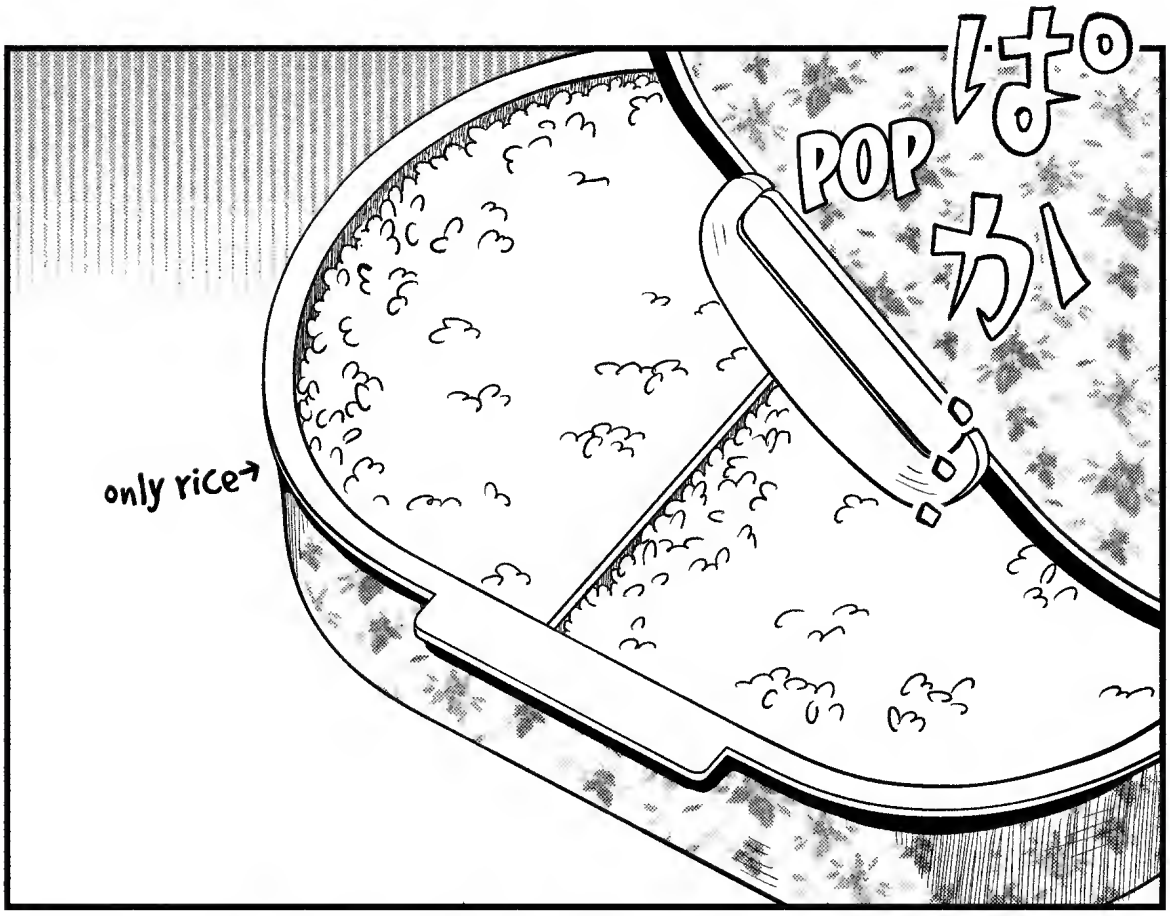
BA-DUM
ドキッ
!!

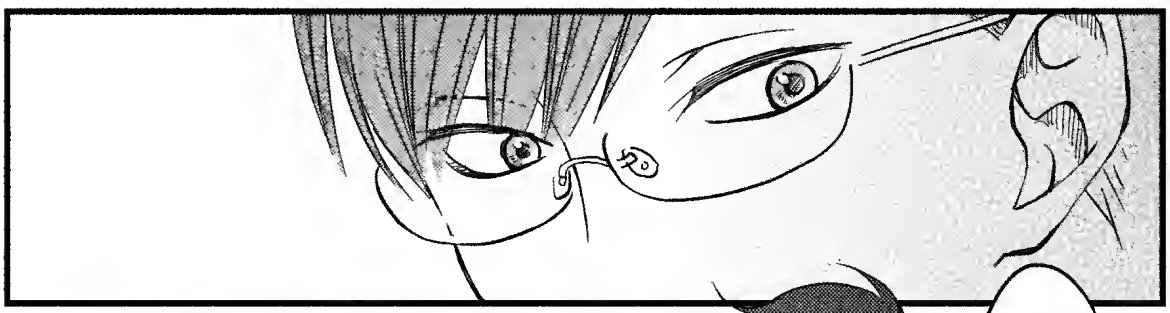
Azuma-kun is right here.
Azuma-kun is right here.
Azuma-kun is right here.
Azuma-kun is right here.

You aren't hungry, Aizawa-san?
N-no, I'll eat, too.


What's your favorite thing to eat for lunch, Aizawa-san?
CHOMP むぐ むぐ CHOMP
The balance between rice and other items is key to a proper boxed lunch.
I'm kind of nervous to eat lunch right in front of him...


That, at school... at Azuma-kun's favorite place, even...
I always watched him.
*Easy Home Gardening by Toshitaka Itagi
...we could sit like this, side by side.


only rice→
POP
ぱっ
か！

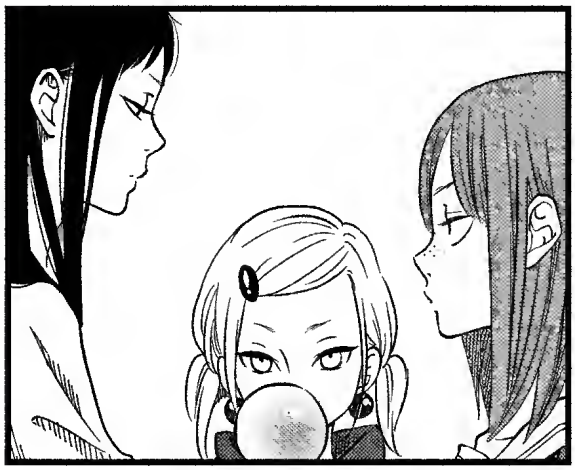


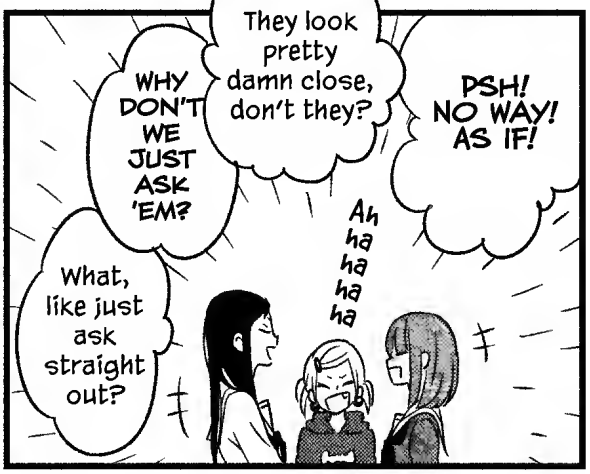
Hey.
C'mon, c'mon!
CHOMP もぐ
CHOMP もぐ
It's so good! ♡

MURMUR
They're having a nice lunch together, just like yesterday, huh?
Why's she with Azuma?
Huh?
Isn't that Aizawa-san?
This is causing quite a stir!
MURMUR

Well, don't they look comfor-table?

...
They have to be dating, right?

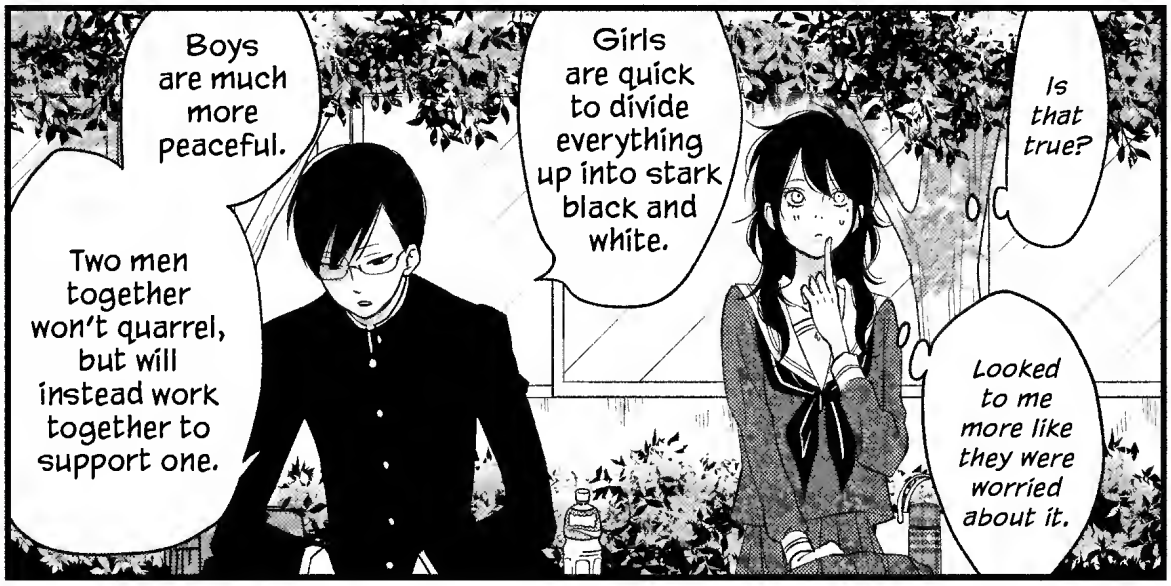



They look pretty damn close, don't they?
WHY DON'T WE JUST ASK 'EM?
PSH! NO WAY! AS IF!
Ah ha ha ha ha
What, like just ask straight out?

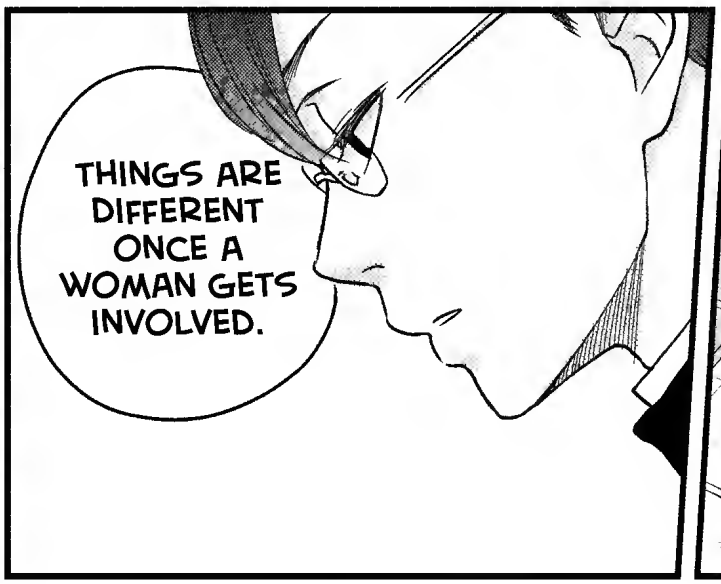
Yeah, we should just get a straight answer from them right now.
WHOOSH
If they are dating, that's a big issue for us.
It means that even Azuma can land a hot girlfriend like Aizawa-san.
As people, we won't stand for being second to that trash!
WHAM!
Hey, Azuma, you bastard!

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU! OH, ARE YOU HAVING LUNCH OUT IN THE GARDEN?
MIND IF WE JOIN YOU? ♡
WHAT? IT'S NOT AN UNREA-SONABLE REQUEST!
Fine! We'll stay out of your way, then!
You jerk!
Are you sure?
It's fine.
If I leave any openings, they'll eat me alive.

Those girls are from a world ruled by the law of the jungle.
It's quite likely that seeing the two of us peacefully eating together...
...is such a strange sight to them that they had to come bully me about it.

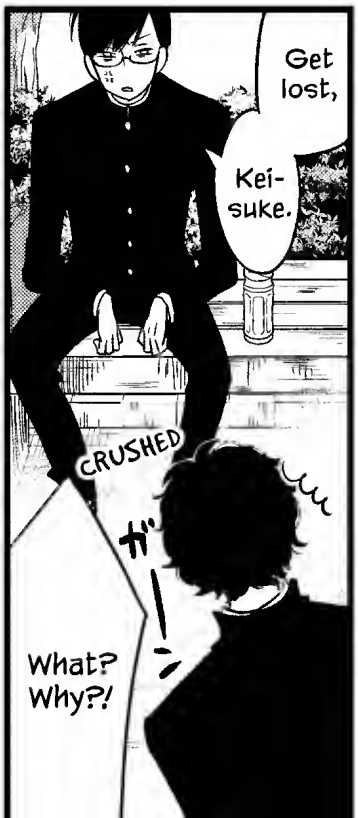

Is that true?
Girls are quick to divide everything up into stark black and white.
Boys are much more peaceful.
Looked to me more like they were worried about it.
Two men together won't quarrel, but will instead work together to support one.

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL


THINGS ARE DIFFERENT ONCE A WOMAN GETS INVOLVED.

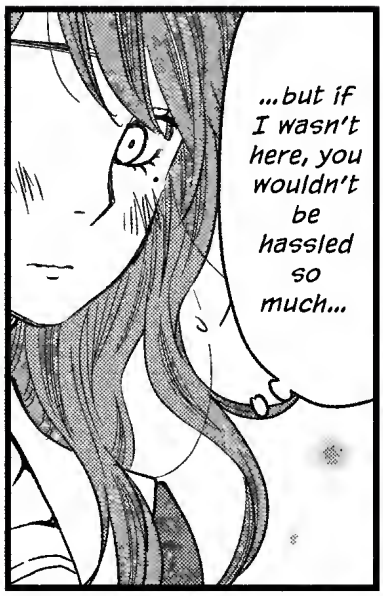
How-ever...

Oh.
Par-
don
me.

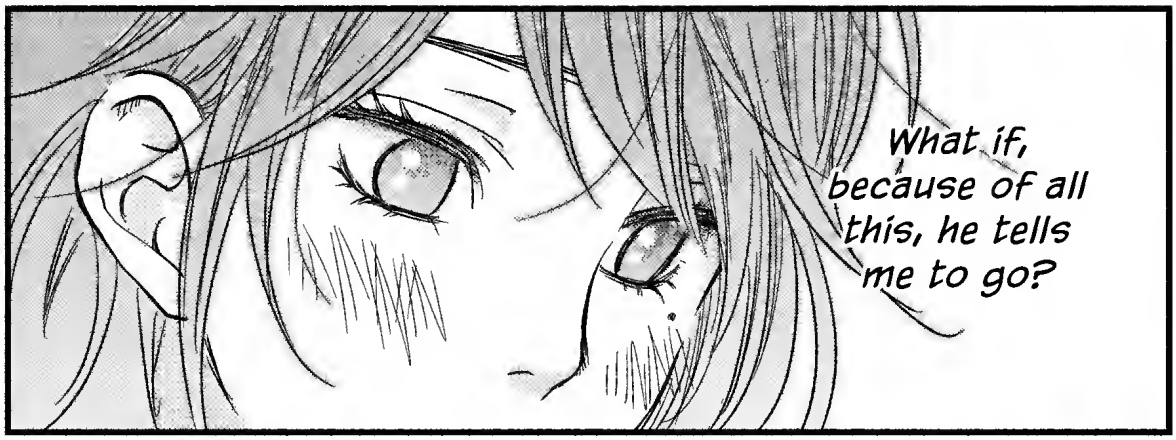

Get
lost,
Kei-
suke.
CRUSHED
ガーン
What?
Why?!

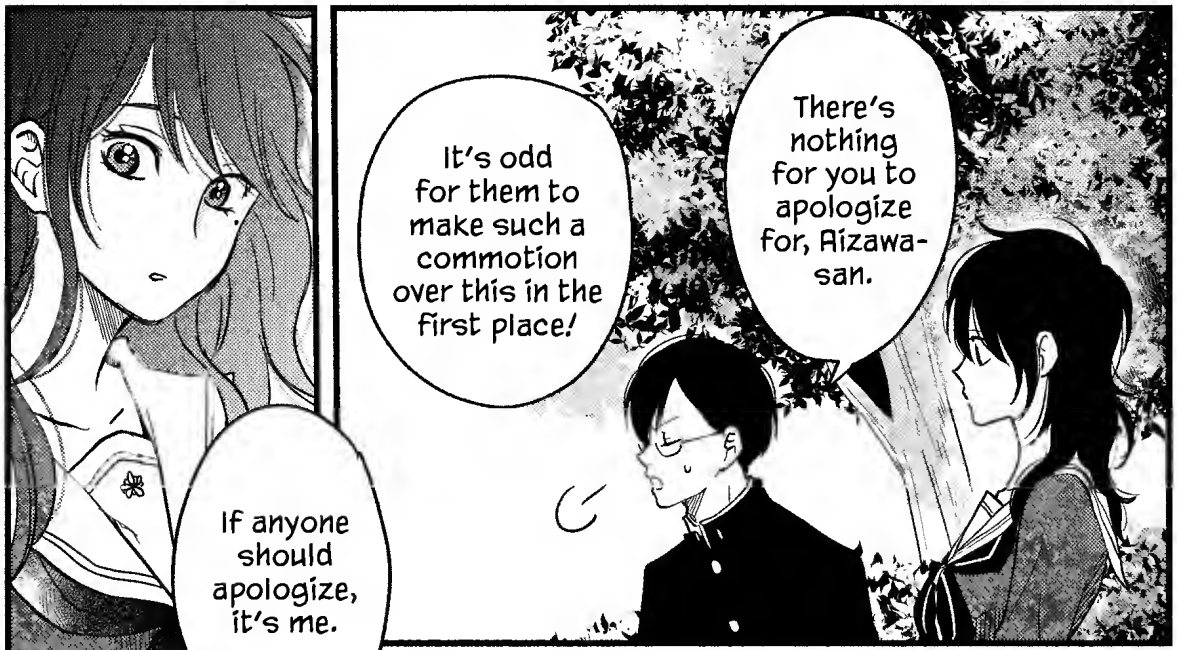
Pardon
me.

COME ON! YOU CAN'T JUST MONOPOLIZE HER LIKE THAT! YOU JERK!
What a ridiculous accusation.
Hmph! Trying to play it cool?
Fine, then! From this point on, we ain't friends anymore!
WELL? HOW'D IT GO?
EXCITED
ワイ
She's even more beautiful up close!
...that wasn't what she asked, idiot.
Can you guys just calm down?
CRUSHED
What? Aizawa-san?!
ワイ
EXCITED
...
Who was that?
What a fragile friend-ship...
Kei-suke Itoh.
He's the biggest idiot I know.
Man! Why all this so sud-denly?
I just can't catch a break now!


...but if I wasn't here, you wouldn't be hassled so much...

I...I'm sorry. This is my fault.
You don't need to apologize.


What if, because of all this, he tells me to go?

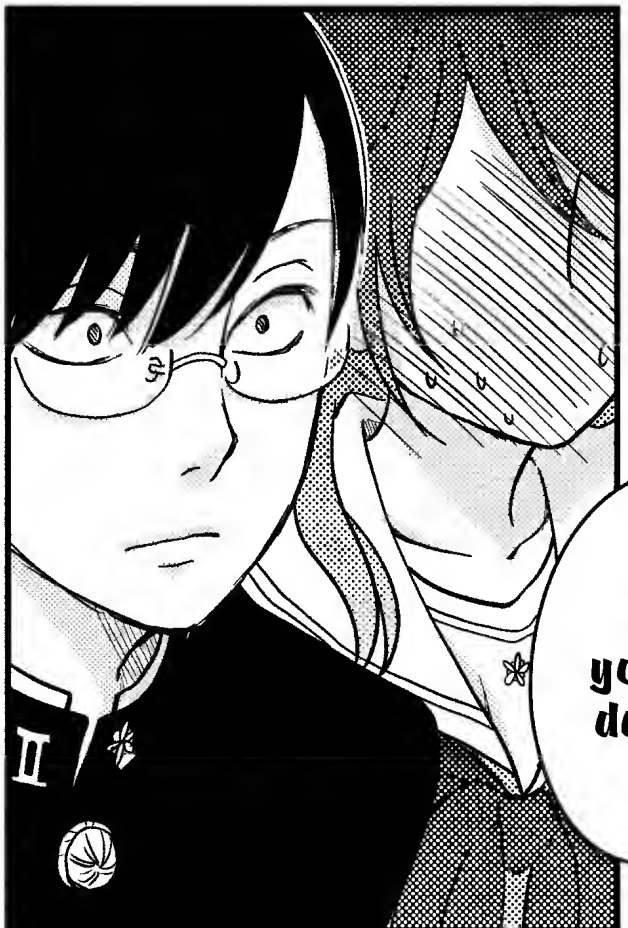

There's nothing for you to apologize for, Aizawa-san.
It's odd for them to make such a commotion over this in the first place!
If anyone should apologize, it's me.

Still... Why is everyone making such a fuss?
...
He didn't...
...tell me to go.
That's a relief...
Excuse me...
Well...
They all want me to ask you some-thing.
Is there just a whole group of you sending one person at a time?
So now it's your turn?

Exact-ly...
...what kind of relationship do you two have?

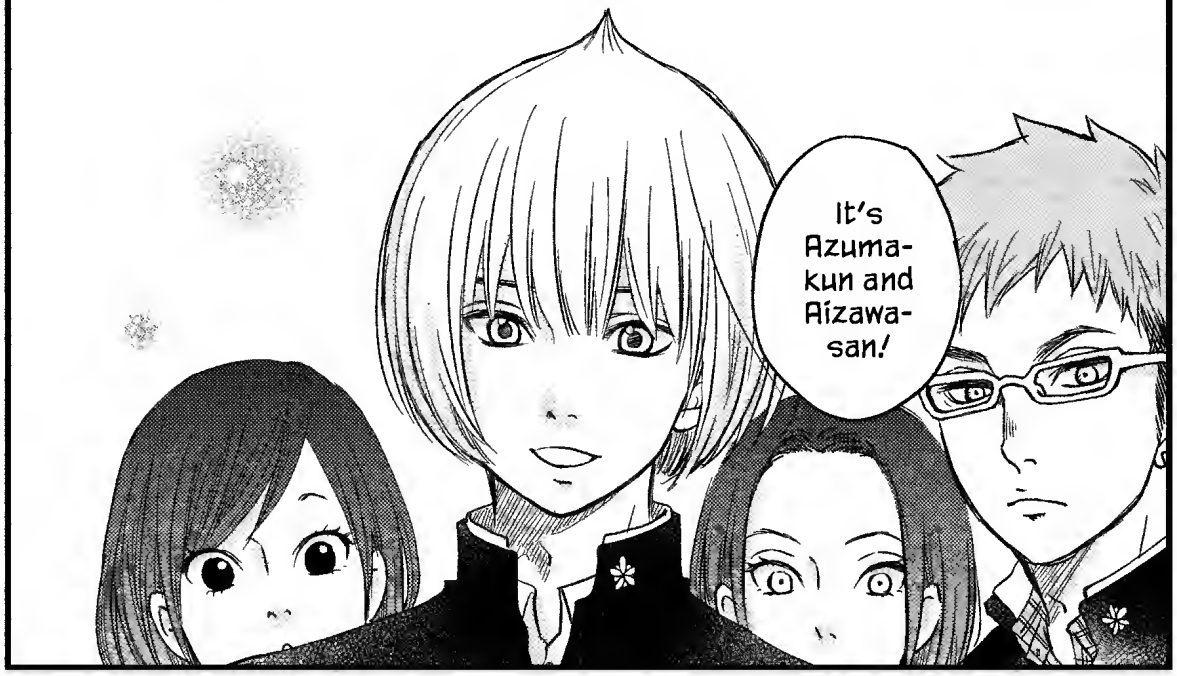
Ask?
Ask what?
MAN, THIS IS HARD.
Um, well...

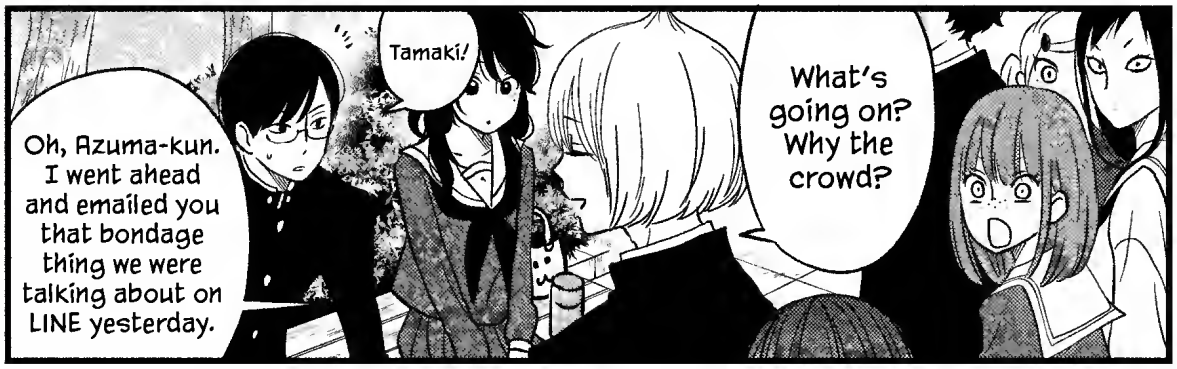
Huh?
What?
...
Well... I mean ...

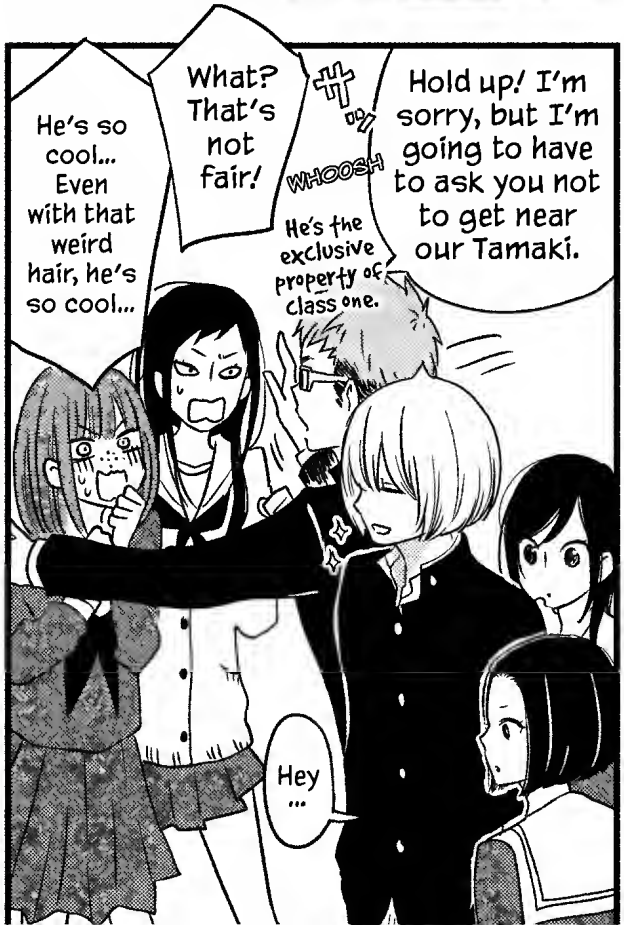

Are you two dating?

MURMUR
MURMUR
You two are suddenly eating lunch together in full view of the public.
Every-body is wonder-ing...

BLUUUUUUSH
Huh?
Wha...?
THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW DARE YOU FLIRT SO BRAZENLY?! AZUMA, YOU BASTARD!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS!
Sorry, Azuma. I couldn't stop them.
OH.
I guess they followed me.
F... flirt?!
Are you daft?!
Exactly what part of this makes you think that?!
For one, isn't it rude to ask that right in front of Aizawa-san?!
Oh!


It's Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san!


Tamaki!
What's going on? Why the crowd?
Oh, Azuma-kun. I went ahead and emailed you that bondage thing we were talking about on LINE yesterday.

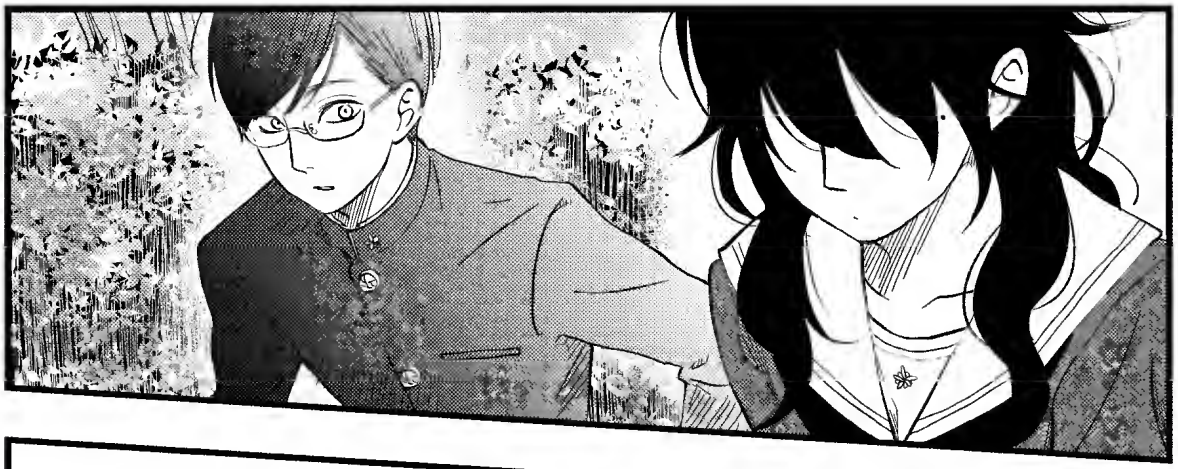

What? That's not fair!
WHOOSH
Hold up! I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to ask you not to get near our Tamaki.
He's so cool... Even with that weird hair, he's so cool...
He's the exclusive property of class one.
Hey ...

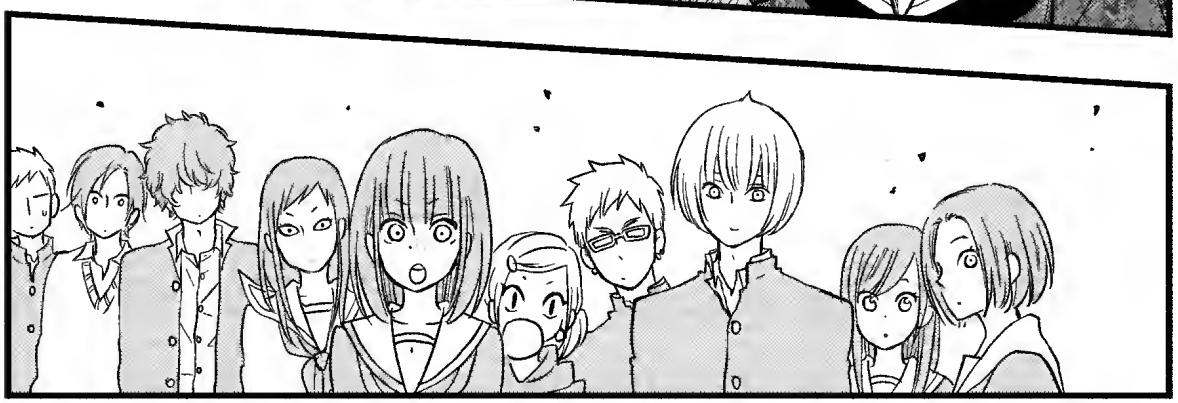
It's—

Whoa!
IT'S THE PRINCE!
STAMPEDE

What?!
Why wasn't I told about this, Shiro?!
Oho!
Even at the station?
Hm?
Dun-no.
They sit together at the train station, too.
Tamaki, are Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san dating?
What's with them?
...
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?
COME ON! JUST TELL US!
When, where, how, and with whom did I ever—
...
So Aizawa-san is...
CRUSHED
Why's everyone...
...bringing this up?

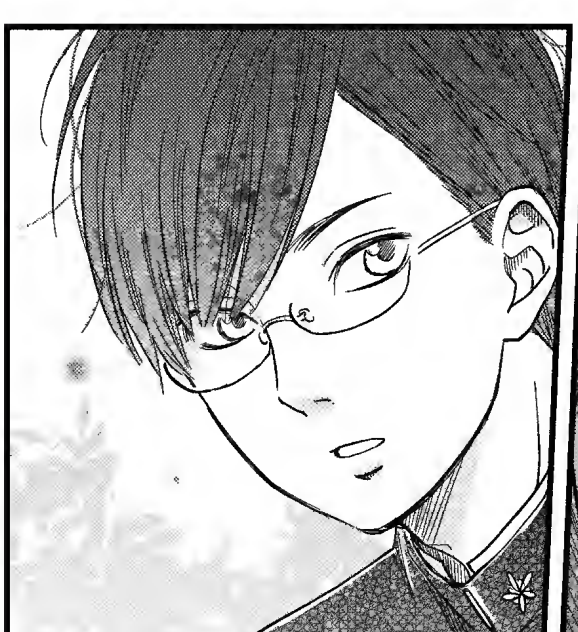
SO, ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?
ARE YOU IN LOVE?
We are not dating, and we are not in love!

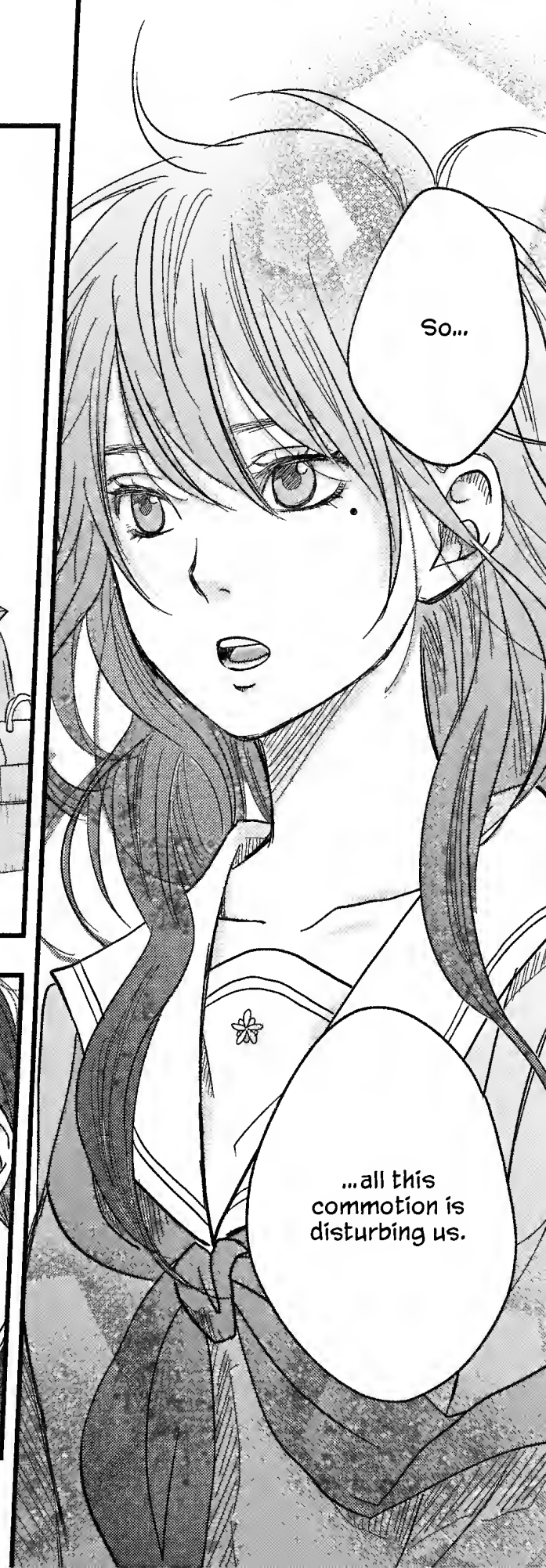




Azuma-kun and I...
...are merely meeting here, as friends, to talk to one another.
Nothing more and nothing less.

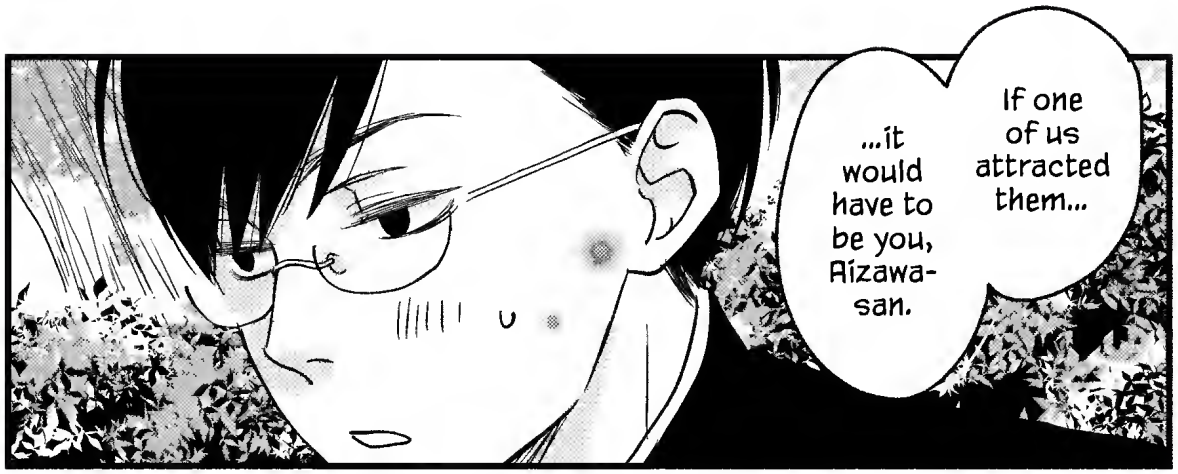
Please.
BOW
Do not misunderstand the situation.

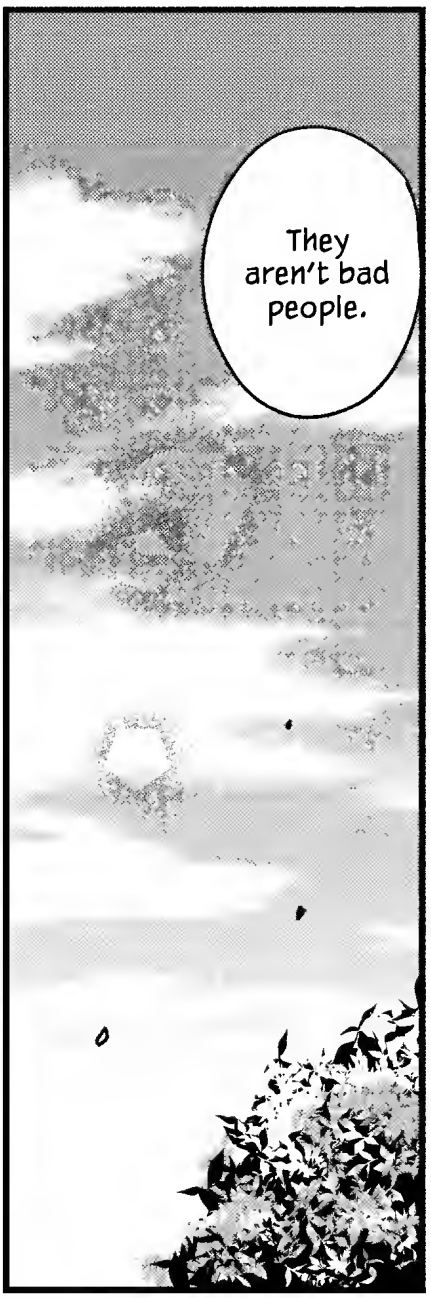



So...
...all this commotion is disturbing us.

Come on!
That's all you wanted, too, right?
Let's go.
CROWDING
See?
It's nothing special!
I see...
Tamaki
...
Sorry!
Bye for now!
See you, Azuma-kun! Aizawa-san!

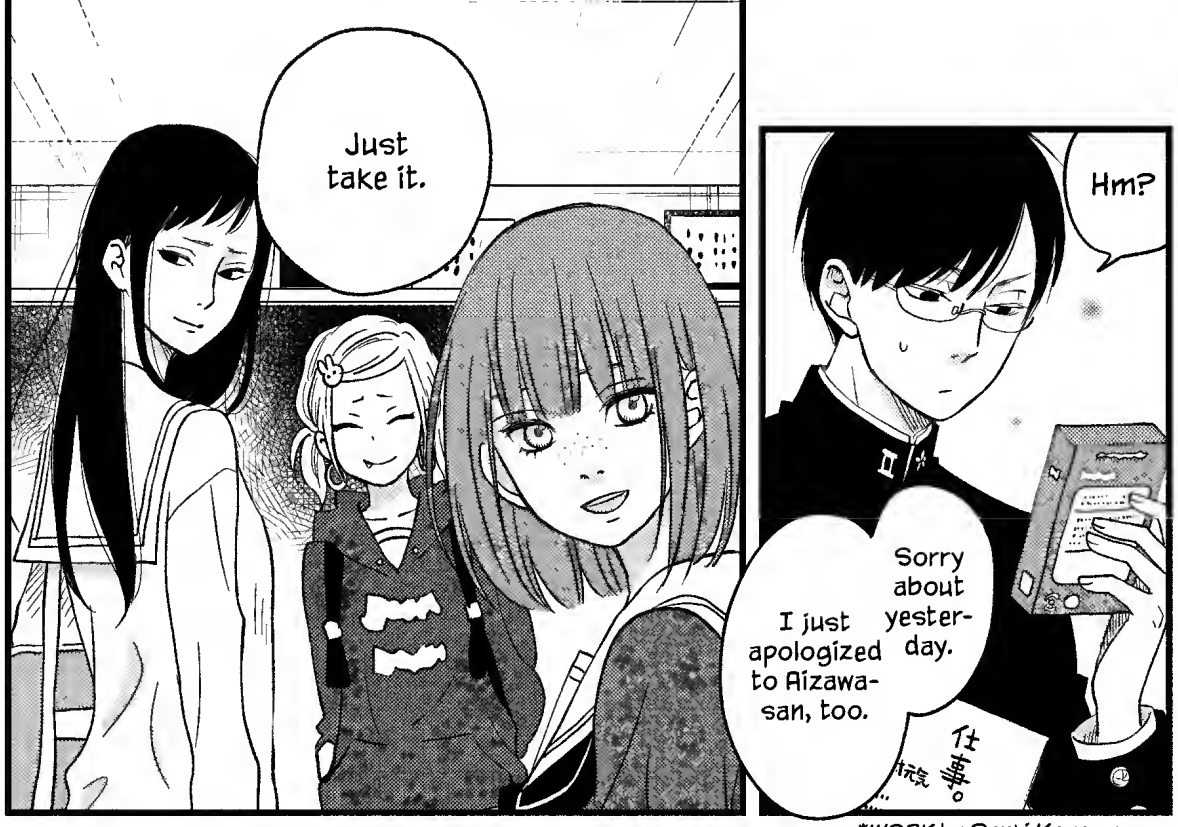
Sorry...
I should have said it.
You had to stand up and everything...
It's surprising.
Just because I sat next to you...
...all these people came to talk.
You know...
This is the first time I've been surrounded by so many people.
Eh he he クスクス

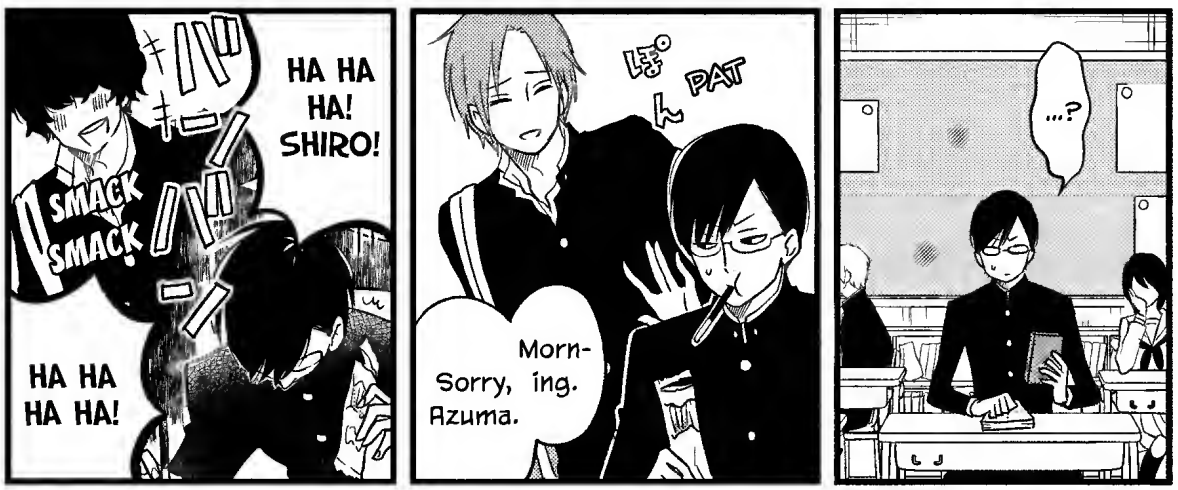

If one of us attracted them...
...it would have to be you, Aizawa-san.


They aren't bad people.

They just got caught up in the spectacle.
So, please...
...don't let it discourage you from talking to me.

From then on...


Just take it.
Hm?
Sorry about yesterday.
I just apologized to Aizawa-san, too.
仕事。
*WORK by Genki Kawamura


HA HA HA! SHIRO!
SMACK SMACK
HA HA HA HA!
PAT
Morn-ing. Sorry, Azuma.
...?

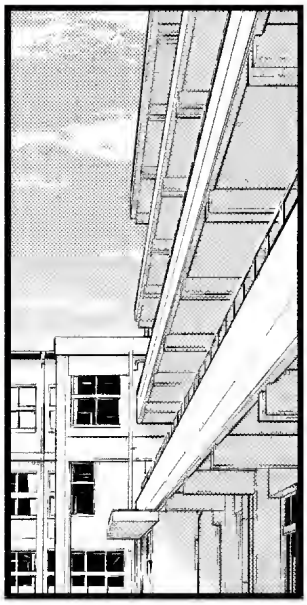
HUH? BUT...
Everyone's being too nice to me.
...huh?
What's going on?

You like Aizawa-san, don't you, Azuma?
Sorry for butting in.

Only makes sense, right?
So it was one-sided, huh?
...
What?!
It must sting to hear her call you a friend like that!
You have no chance in hell!

The girls and I are all cheering for you.
Yeah, yeah!
Ah, don't worry about it.
ガタ CLATTER
N—
NO!
Cheer up, Azuma!
No/ I mean ...
PAT
...
ぽん
And so...

Azuma! I heard you confessed to Aizawa-san in the courtyard and she turned you down?
Not even slightly true.
As he got irritated and flustered and denied it all...
...Azuma-kun discovered that the more he denied it, the more people believed it..
Azuma-kun and I are merely meeting here, as friends, to talk to one another.
Nothing more and nothing less.
For a rumor, it sure spread fast!
oh, is that so?
If I remain calm...
...the other party seems to accept it.
It must be inconvenient for Aizawa-san, as well...
Azuma! I heard you hugged Aizawa-san in the courtyard?
I still don't get why this happened...



Well...

...at least we can have pleasant conversations again.

So that's good.

Azuma! I heard you proposed to Aizawa-san in the courtyard naked?

Hey, Nozomin ...

Yes, Hamarin?

The boy you like... It's Azuma from class four, right?

Is that so...

HUH?!

... yes.

Aizawa-san's lunchbox
(From Azuma-kun's perspective)
"Simple is best!" Sometimes she adds a single pickled plum for variety.
Full of constantly boiling water
There's a tag inside that reads "Aizawa Nozomi, year 5, Wisteria class."

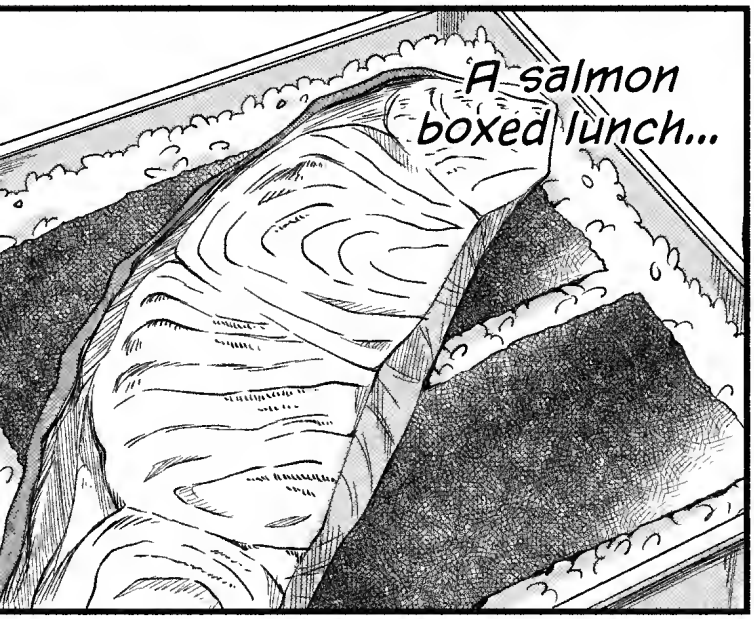
RUMORS
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
I heard he composed a love ballad to her, and she turned him down.
Hey, Azuma! I heard you knocked Aizawa-san over in the courtyard?
I heard she was repulsed by his leg hair.
I heard he tried to hold her hand and she smacked him one!
This is character assassination! I'd never do such things!
Rrraaagh! Why is it that every single one of these rumors has me mess something up?!
Fine! Do your worst!
heh heh heh
Isn't that the norm for you?
SNUB
When you keep picking fights with girls, this is your just reward!
If anything, it's the norm for her...
I—I just happened to be in the bushes!
RUSTLE
Oh! H-hello, Azuma-kun!
And why did you "just happen" to be in the bushes again...?
I wasn't trying to eavesdrop or anything!
TUMBLE

WHISPER
WHISPER
I get the feeling I'm being watched...
Hm?

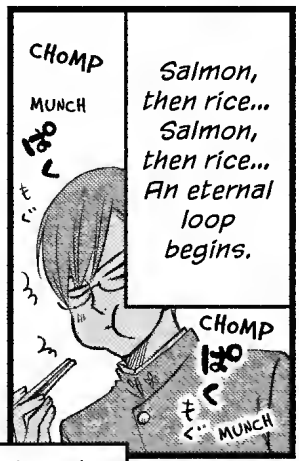
ep. 8 Getting Scratched by a Cat Makes Me Kind of Happy

*1-3 Tater Cafe
baked potato · candied sweet potato
~Health Promotion Show~

It made me really happy.
Your bad.
I have to say, for me...
*SPECIAL
*Big Cornet - $1.80
*COMMISSARY
Excuse me! One yakisoba bun, please!
CHATTER
CHATTER
Ah ha ha! Like I was saying...
Katsu Curry - $3.20
Curry - $1.80
Tsukimi Udon - $1.80
Wakame Udon - $1.80
Kitsune Udon - $1.80
*[obscured] - $1.65, Hot Dog - $1.40
It's okay.
Please go ahead.
What should I get?
C-come on.
Yakisoba $0.90
Hurry it up.
S-sorry. You can go first.



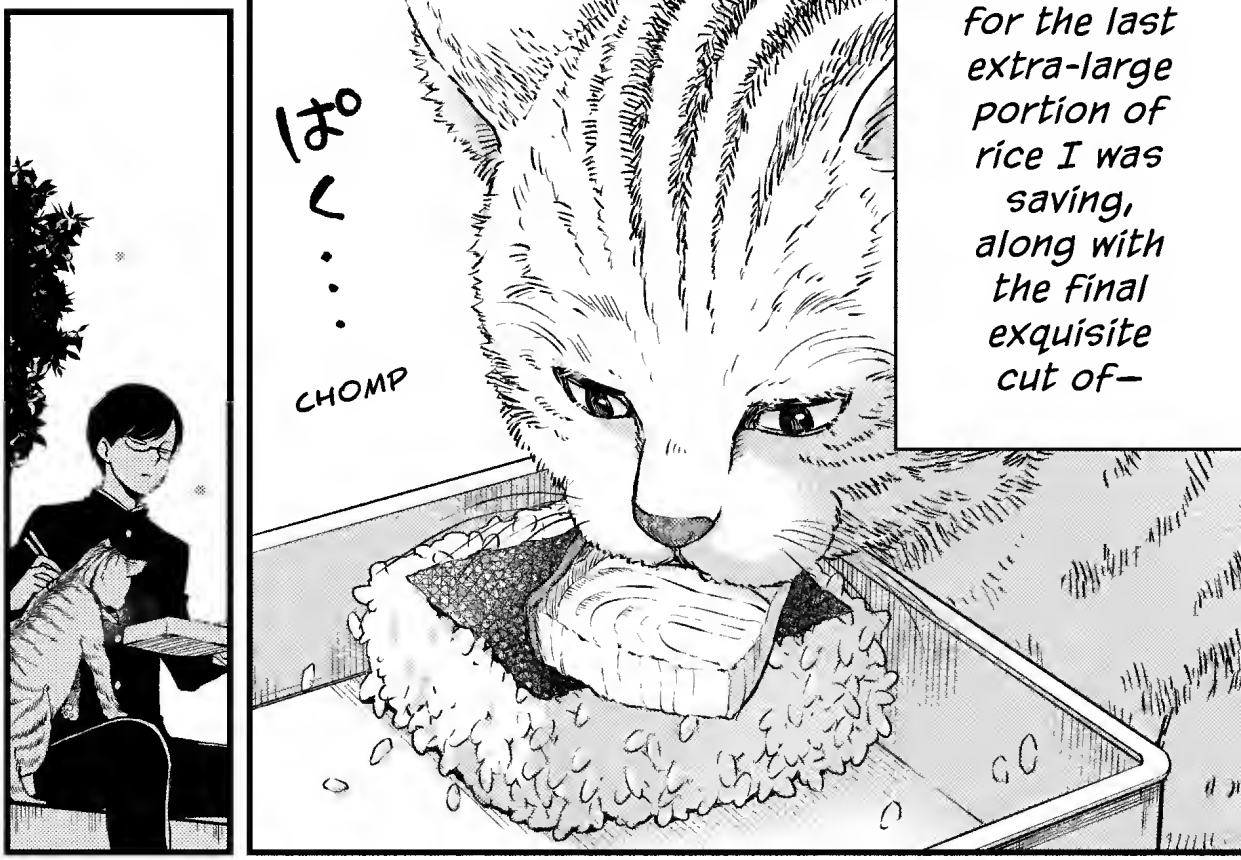
At this morning's assembly, the principal had a slip of the tongue...
It's a relief to know even adults make those kinds of mistakes.



Oh, no! It won't do if I don't include sliced burdock root, too!

Great! This is truly a lunch among lunches. The king of lunch! (So named for the king salmon, of course.)

Thank you, Mother. I love salmon!


And now, for the last extra-large portion of rice I was saving, along with the final exquisite cut of—
ぱく・・・
CHOMP

Ugh. Why is there a cat here?
Oh, look! It's a cat!
Eeee! A cat!
CHATTER
CHATTER

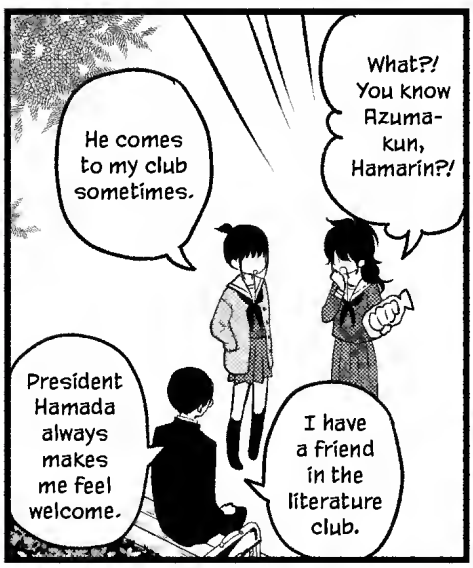
My salmon!
DASH
ドドドドド
Hey! Come back here!

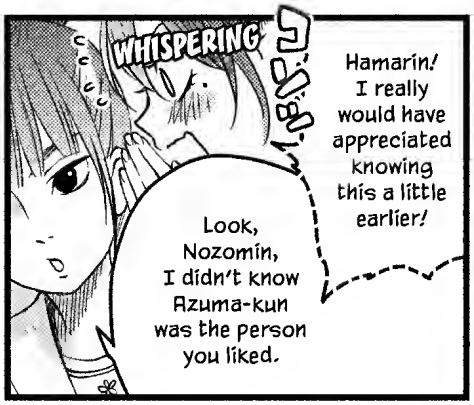
No sense in getting bent out of shape over a cat, I suppose...

Miss Presi-dent?

Azuma-kun!
Look! I got one of the daily special, limited-release chocolate cornets!
I decided to go all-in on this one!
200

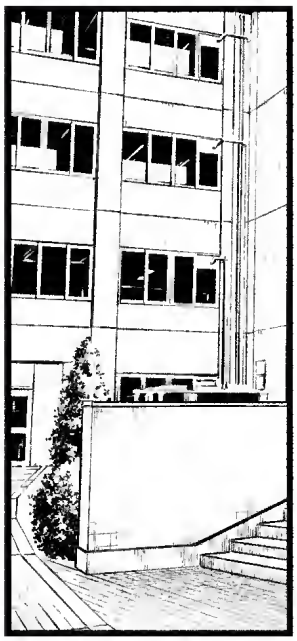
*No cats allowed!
—Gardening Club


What?! You know Azuma-kun, Hamarin?!
He comes to my club sometimes.
President Hamada always makes me feel welcome.
I have a friend in the literature club.


WHISPERING
Hamarin! I really would have appreciated knowing this a little earlier!
Look, Nozomin, I didn't know Azuma-kun was the person you liked.

This is my friend from class...
...Marin Hamada-chan!
Though she doesn't look it, she's the president of the literature club!
We know each other.

*BIG CHOCOLATE CORNET



*WELL-AGED Cream Anpan

Sometimes I see the literature club meetings there.
I've been invited to share comments on their work, as well.
I'm always borrowing things from the library.
shared portion
It surprised me that you've been in contact with the literature club, Azuma-kun.

Afterwards, they took your words to heart and couldn't stop gushing over you.
I was just trying to make sure I didn't interpret the scene incorrectly, since I'd only skimmed it...
I just couldn't wrap my head around the part where the boy gets down on his knees and confesses his undying love to a girl he merely bumped into in the hallway.
You defended me at the time, didn't you?
Hold up. If you say it like that, she might misunderstand.
...

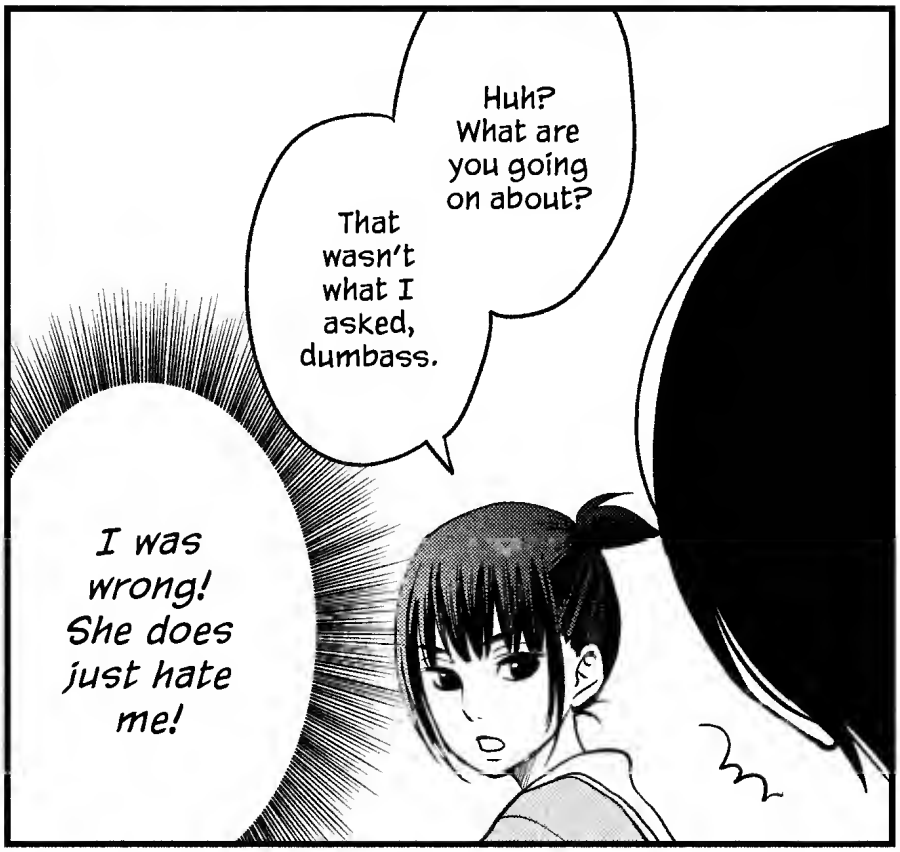
Naoko by Keigo Higashino

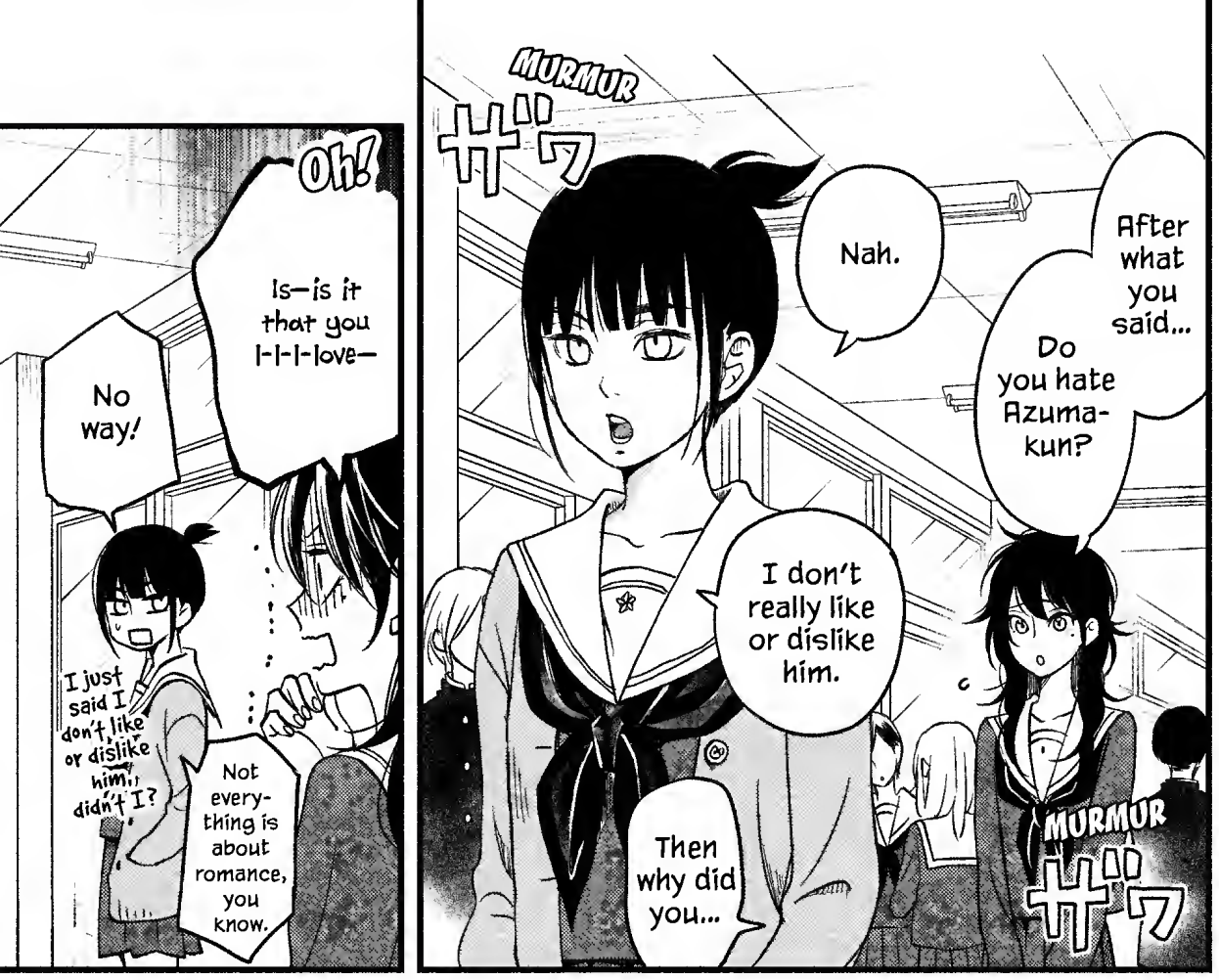
Wh...
What's this?
I—I don't remember any gushing!
If that was the case, I must apologize for throwing the order of the club into disarray.

...uneasiness.
Somehow, I sense a faint...
Azuma. Why do you eat lunch out here with Nozomin?
But why? Does she dislike me, for whatever reason? She's always been a rather blunt person...
No, that's not it.
This is friend vetting.
Most likely, she's testing me to see if I'm worthy of being Aizawa-san's friend.
It's that kind of thing, isn't it? Girls just love ~~meddling~~ giving their outside opinion on things.
Oh, will you? I want you two to meet!
I wanna see if he's good for you.
Hey, introduce me to your guy.
Very well. I accept.

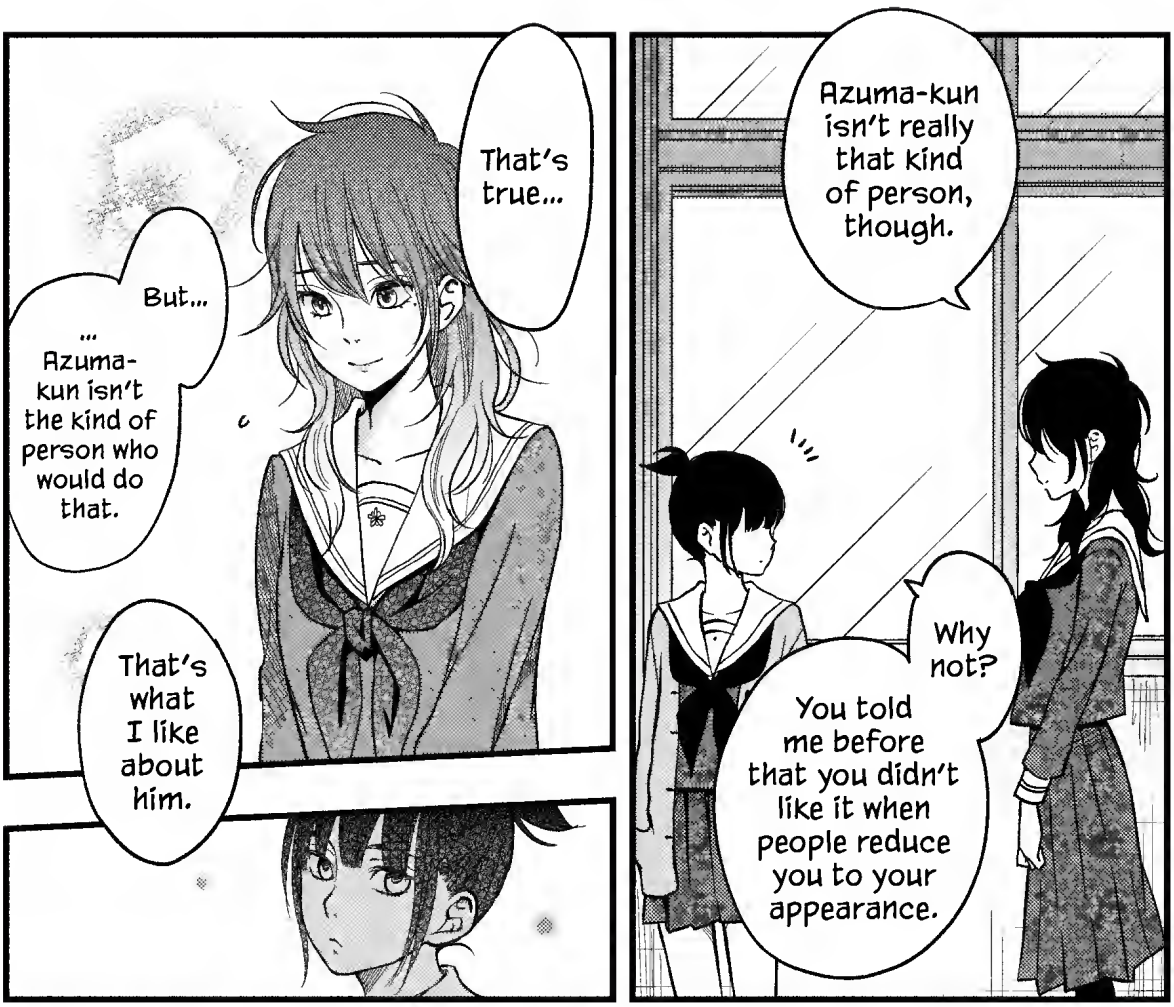
Owing to her kindness, Aizawa-san and I have been such good friends lately!
There's no reason to put me to the test...
...but I accept this challenge readily!
Why, you ask?
It is because this is the optimal spot to pass a maximally-enjoyable lunchtime!
How about that?! An answer so pristinely perfect that it's impossible to refute!

DING
DONG
What's going on, Hamarin?


Huh? What are you going on about?
That wasn't what I asked, dumbass.
I was wrong! She does just hate me!


Oh!
Is—is it that you l-l-l-love—
No way!
I just said I don't like or dislike him, didn't I?
Not everything is about romance, you know.
MURMUR
ガヤ
Nah.
After what you said...
Do you hate Azuma-kun?
I don't really like or dislike him.
Then why did you...
MURMUR
ガヤ

... Thanks.
It's just... frustrating.
He's so bad with women.
And you're...
...really beautiful.

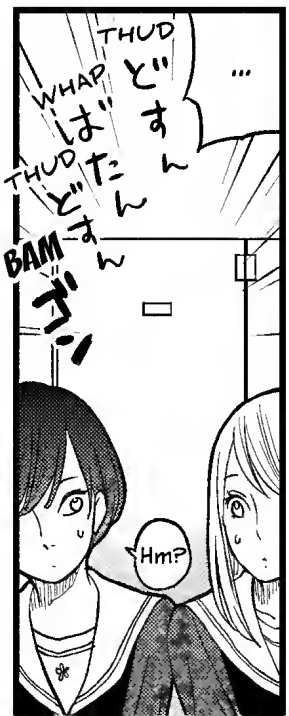

Azuma-kun isn't really that kind of person, though.
Why not?
You told me before that you didn't like it when people reduce you to your appearance.
That's true...
But... ... Azuma-kun isn't the kind of person who would do that.
That's what I like about him.

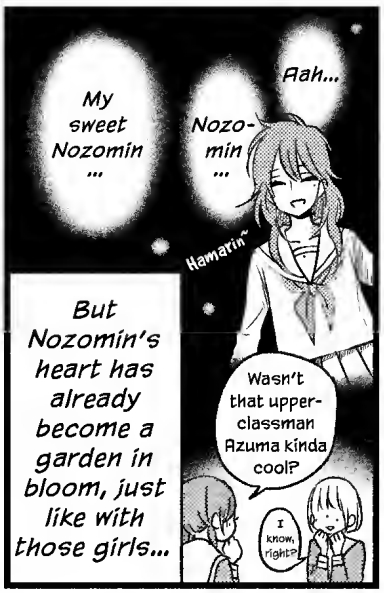
Oh, um...
Well, if you say things are fine, that's good enough for me.

Although... if I'm as beautiful as you say, I'd hope it would have at least a little influence...
Even though we're both the opposite sex, when I'm alone with him, all he wants to talk about is his lunch...
Huh?

Next time I see Azuma-kun, I'll apologize to him. Sound good?
See you later. I'm gonna hit the restroom.
...
Nozomin is...
...head over heels for him.
Damn it! I didn't catch a single word of that.
ニヤ
FLUSHHHHH
ぉぉぉぉぉぉぉ
...
水を大切に
BURBLE BURBLE
*DON'T WASTE WATER

Plus, Azuma? Why Azuma?!
Nozomin could totally get someone way better!
Sorry... I don't understand the heroine's actions here.
Why is it that, in any given situation, her reaction is to run away? How's she supposed to have a productive conversation about the issue if she's not there?
Also... ... ...
Well, okay, I mean, I'd dislike whoever it was even if it wasn't him!
I'D BE SO LONELY!


THUD
どすん
WHAP
ばたん
THUD
どすん
BAM
ゴン
...
Hm?


My sweet Nozomin ...
Aah... Nozo-min ...
Hamarin~
But Nozomin's heart has already become a garden in bloom, just like with those girls...
Wasn't that upper-classman Azuma kinda cool?
I know, right?

This is Nozo-min, after all!
I just can't do romance stuff like other girls!
Azuma could fall for her any day!
It's just totally lame!

I'm sure someone has written the answer somewhere.
MURMUR
MURMUR
Ah ha ha...
This gloomy feeling that I don't understand...
...I'll figure out what it is.
I know!
I'll read a book.

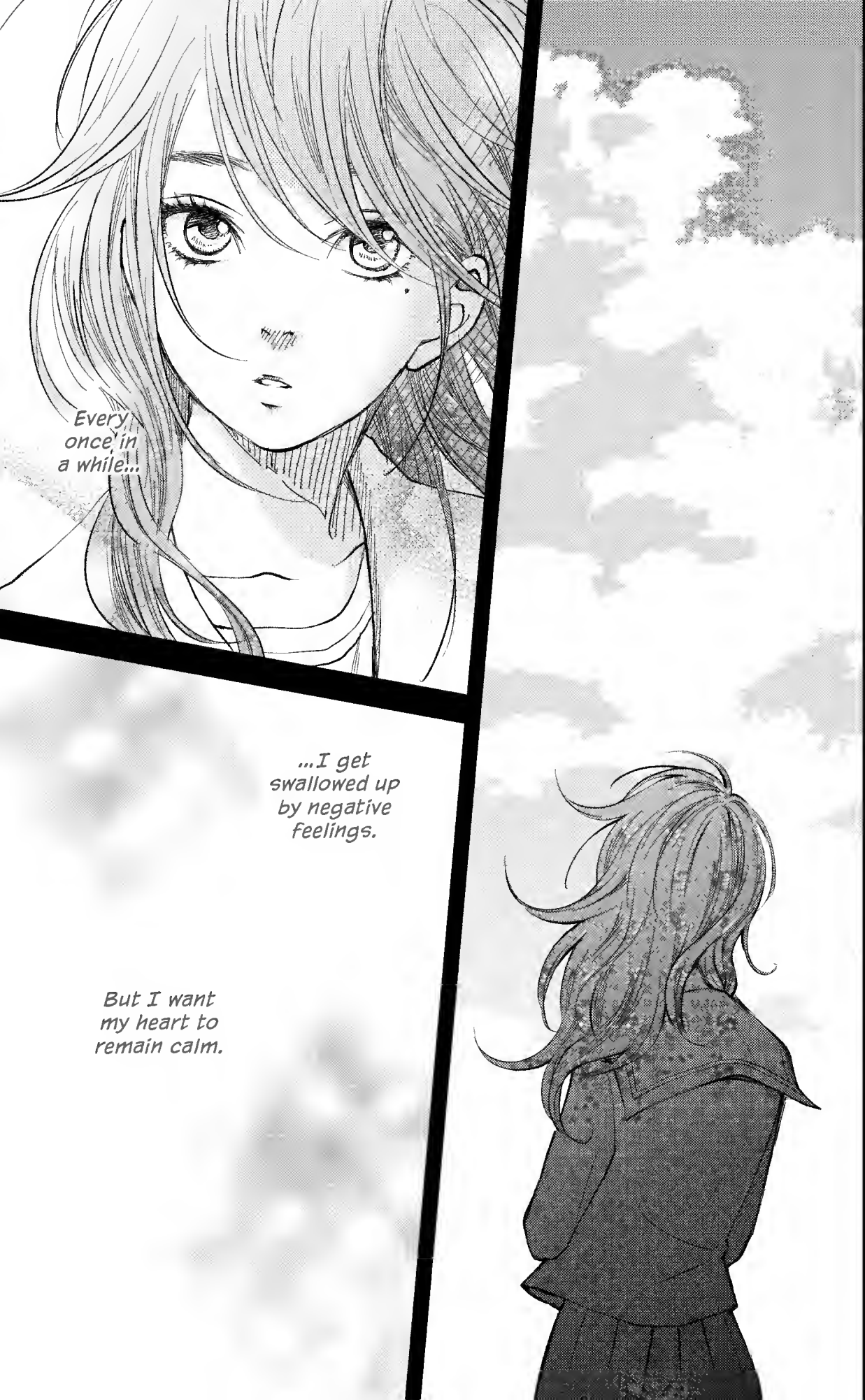
...I'm sorry. I can't.
*Congratulations, new students!
新入学おめでとう
...
I just entered this school...
Ah...I figured. Sorry.
Um...!
Would you like to be friends ...?
Aizawa-san is so pretty ...
She's got an aura about her.
It's like she's from another world.
She's so high-class.
It's like...
...everyone is so distant from me.
I wonder why?
I should try harder.

I'm sorry.
Can I go now?
Can we still be—
O-oh. Okay.
My bad.
Oh! I'm sorry!
Nobody ...
...wants to approach me.
I'm just ...
...so tired of it.
*Harvest Festival
If you know I'm there, at least talk to me.
I try, and I try, and nothing changes, so who cares?
BAM!
どんっ
CLATTER CLATTER
Ah!
FLUTTER
CLATTER

Your bad.
Yes.
...
I'm sorry.
You're right.
Where are my glasses...?

Thank you.

Azuma!
...
So his name is Azuma-kun...
I wonder ...
... what it would be like to talk with him.
What would we say?
What words would we use?
Hm?


Every once in a while...
...I get swallowed up by negative feelings.
But I want my heart to remain calm.

Like the open sky...
I'd thought about it and thought about it...
Before I knew it, my eyes followed him everywhere.
I don't think he recognizes me from back then...
He didn't have his glasses on.
Once I'd gotten the distance between us down to just one meter...
...I worked up the courage to confess.

What nice weather.
Soon it'll be time for the Harvest Festival once more.
Right now...
I can relax, my heart as light as the breeze.
DING
DOOOONG
キーンコーン
Something I never imagined could be true back then.

*Romance
...Ugh.
Azuma.
Hey.
Miss President.

Azuma.
JUMP
ビクッ
ドキ
BA-DUM

...
CREAK
CREAK
ぎく
しゃく

To be honest, I don't think I was wrong.
And I don't want to be disliked.
But Nozomin asked me to apologize.
...Does that even count as an apology?

Sorry about earlier.
I don't hold a grudge against you or anything.
I was just in a bad mood.

...
So, I have these four aunts...
My second and third aunts were really close.
Then, my second aunt got a partner...
...and my third aunt began to drink heavily and quarrel with me.
Sounds pretty bad.
Witnessing this, I realized...
So...
...my third aunt...
...really loved...
...my second aunt.

...there's no need to apologize.
Aizawa-san must be a very important person in your life.
Women seem to value those close to them an exceptional amount...
...Oh.
What's that?
Are you saying I'm the kind of person who gets drunk and picks fights with people?
WH—?!
JUMP
Also, you ain't her boyfriend.
Her boyfriend...?!
N-no!
I just wanted to say that you needn't worry about this kind of thing!
Very observant.
You know, he's strangely...
Hmph.
Let me just say this one thing...

You can get close...
Look. Nozomin is my friend.
...but if you ever hurt her, I won't let you off easy.
...Okay. I understand.
Excuse me...
カーラ
Hama-rin?
Are you around?
CLACK

WHAT?! AZUMA-KUN?!

Lucky you, though.
Azuma's not normally here this time of day.
Today was an exception.

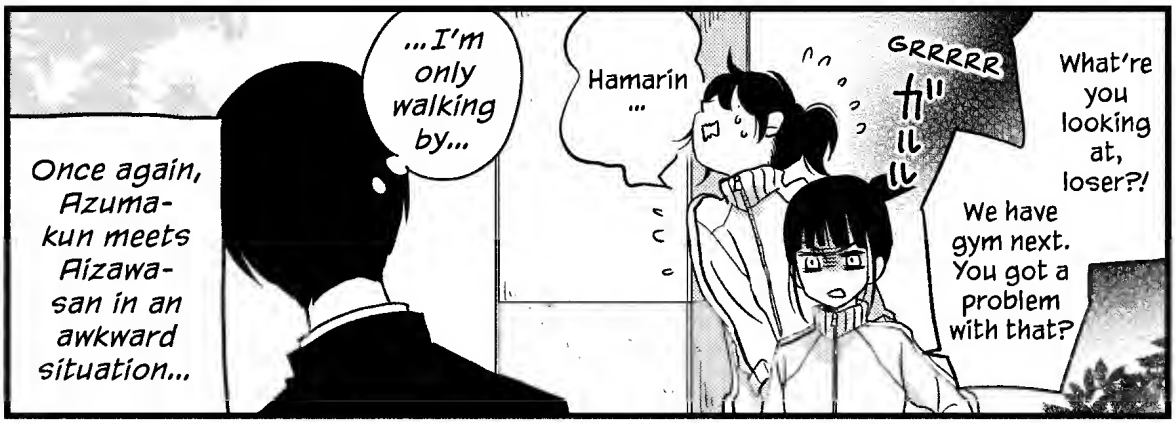
Wh-what do you mean? I came looking for you!
You were acting odd earlier today.

LIBRARY
Nothing important.
It's a secret.

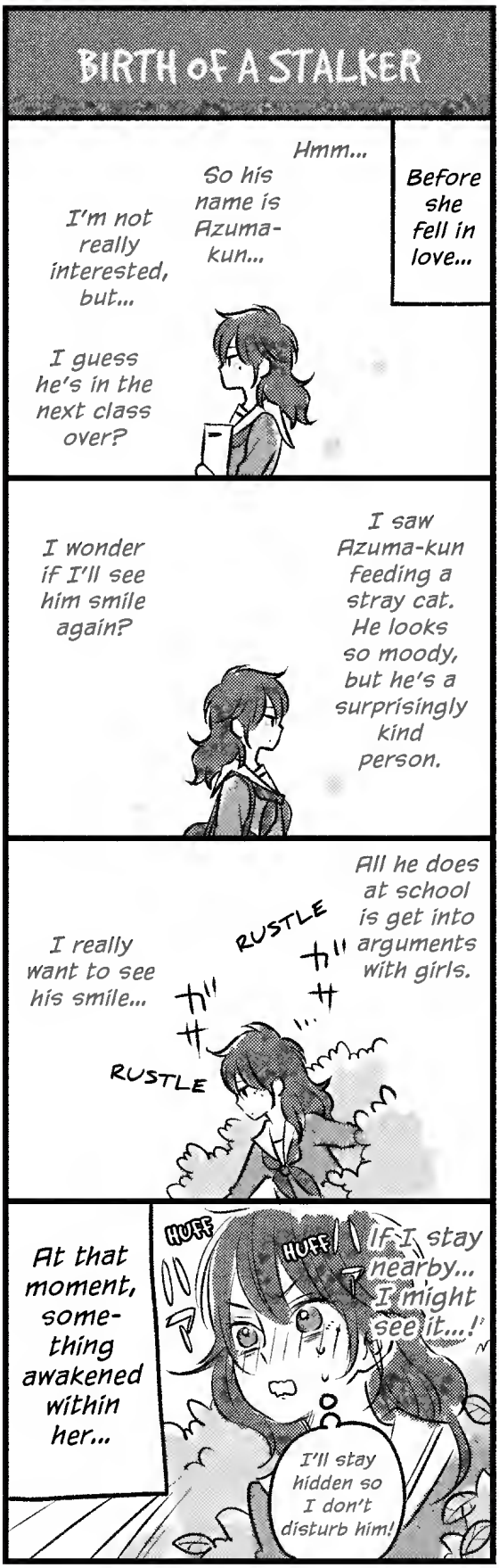
What were you two talking about?

...Sorry, Nozomin.
I felt like you were slipping away from me.
That's absurd, Hamarin!
Okay, but...
...if you suddenly told me you two were dating, I don't know what would happen!
I'm hopeless with romance stuff.
Don't be silly, Hamarin!

IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE THOUGHT OF DATING AZUMA-KUN OCCUPIES MY MIND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

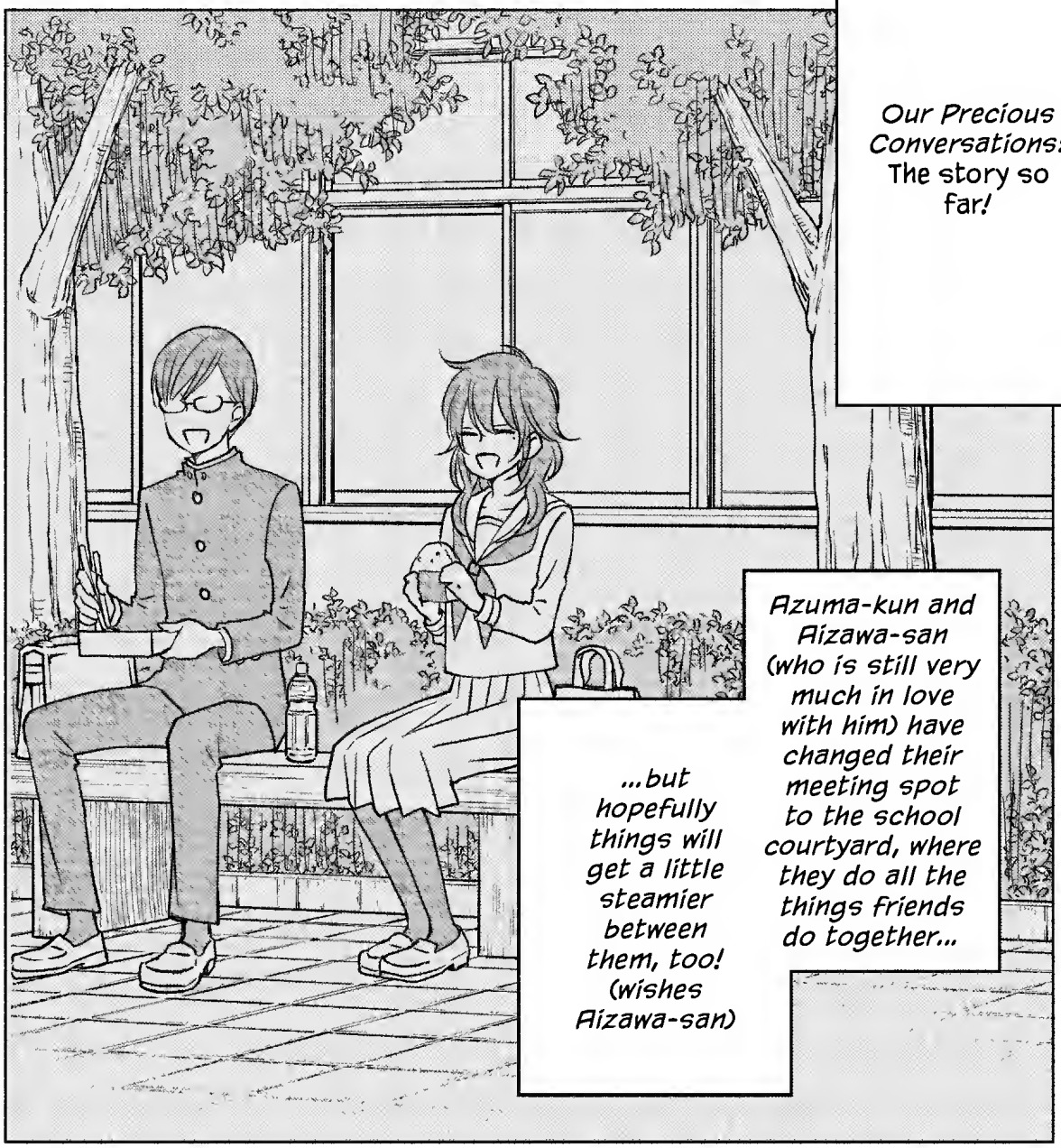

Once again, Azuma-kun meets Aizawa-san in an awkward situation...
...I'm only walking by...
Hamarin ...
GRRRRR
What're you looking at, loser?!
We have gym next. You got a problem with that?

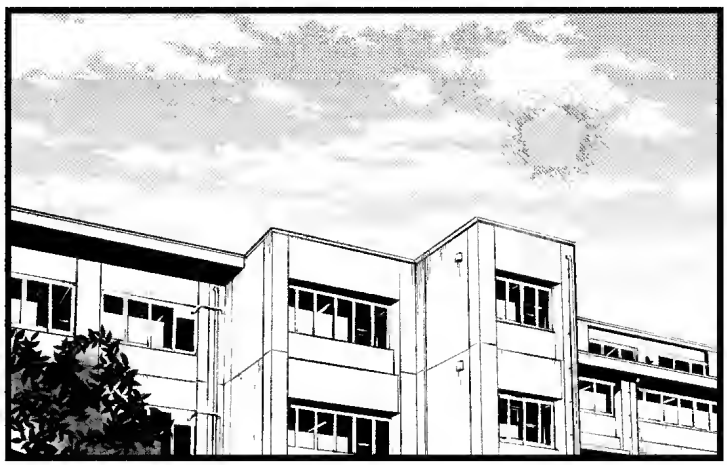
ow! ow, ow, ow!
GRIND GRIND GRIND
!?
Cut it out already!


BIRTH of A STALKER
Before she fell in love...
Hmm...
So his name is Azuma-kun...
I'm not really interested, but...
I guess he's in the next class over?
I saw Azuma-kun feeding a stray cat. He looks so moody, but he's a surprisingly kind person.
I wonder if I'll see him smile again?
All he does at school is get into arguments with girls.
I really want to see his smile...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
At that moment, something awakened within her...
HUFF
HUFF
If I stay nearby... I might see it...!
I'll stay hidden so I don't disturb him!

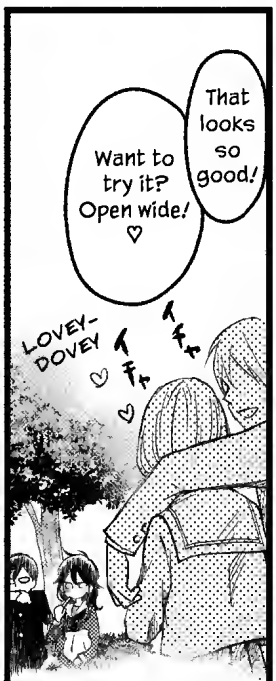
...and smiled a bit!
Hooray! Azuma-kun won a free juice...
Yeah!

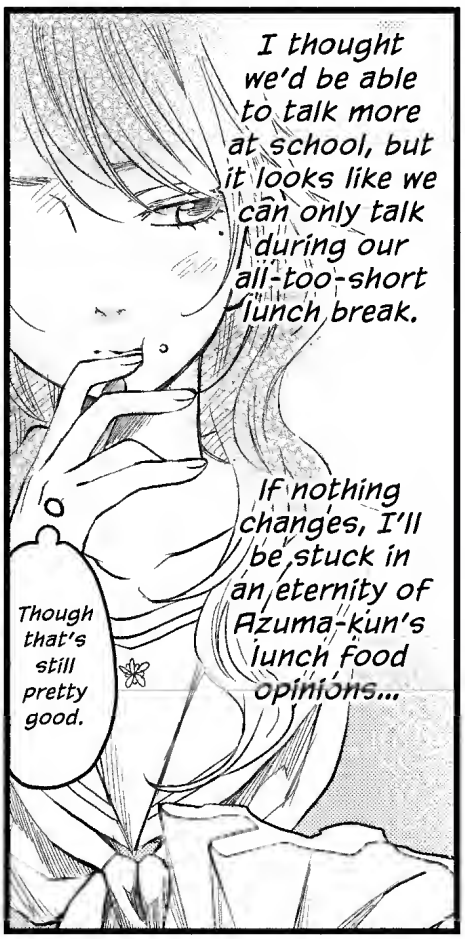
ep. 9 It's Puberty, After All


Our Precious Conversations: The story so far!
Azuma-kun and Aizawa-san (who is still very much in love with him) have changed their meeting spot to the school courtyard, where they do all the things friends do together...
...but hopefully things will get a little steamier between them, too! (wishes Aizawa-san)



I wish things would progress...
I think mince lunches are their own special type of cuisine.
Leaving aside *donburi*-style* meals, they lack a clear distinction between their rice and side dishes.
Their uniqueness of structure almost calls to mind the mahjong hand Seven Pairs**...
*served over rice rather than alongside it
**one of a small number of hands that doesn't follow the pattern of four sets plus a pair




I thought we'd be able to talk more at school, but it looks like we can only talk during our all-too-short lunch break.
If nothing changes, I'll be stuck in an eternity of Azuma-kun's lunch food opinions...
Though that's still pretty good.

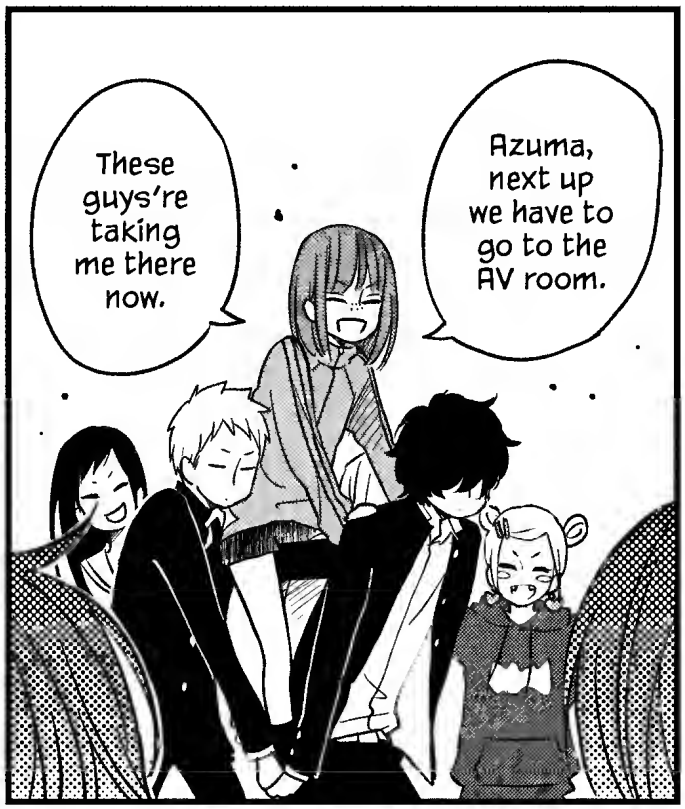
Can I get him to see me as a woman, somehow...?

How nice... They're like two birds sent aloft on the winds of love.

Aizawa-san... what are those?
BA-DUM!
ドキ
ドン
Hm?
Like... biscotti?
What? These?
They're toasted bread crusts.
Yes.
Toasted bread crusts.
Oh, may I?
Yes! Yes!
Of course!
Ah!
W-would you like to try one?
Here!
Open wide...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
ドキ
ドキ
Okay. Thanks.
THWIP
QUIVER
プルプル

SHUFFLE
Could it be that Azuma-kun doesn't see me as a woman?
SOB SOB SOB
That... didn't work out like I'd hoped.
Come on!
You can carry me better than that, idiots!
MUNCH MUNCH
This is pretty good.
Heave, ho!
Heave, ho!
If you drop me, I'll never forgive you!
Oh!
Hey there, Azuma! Aizawa-chan!

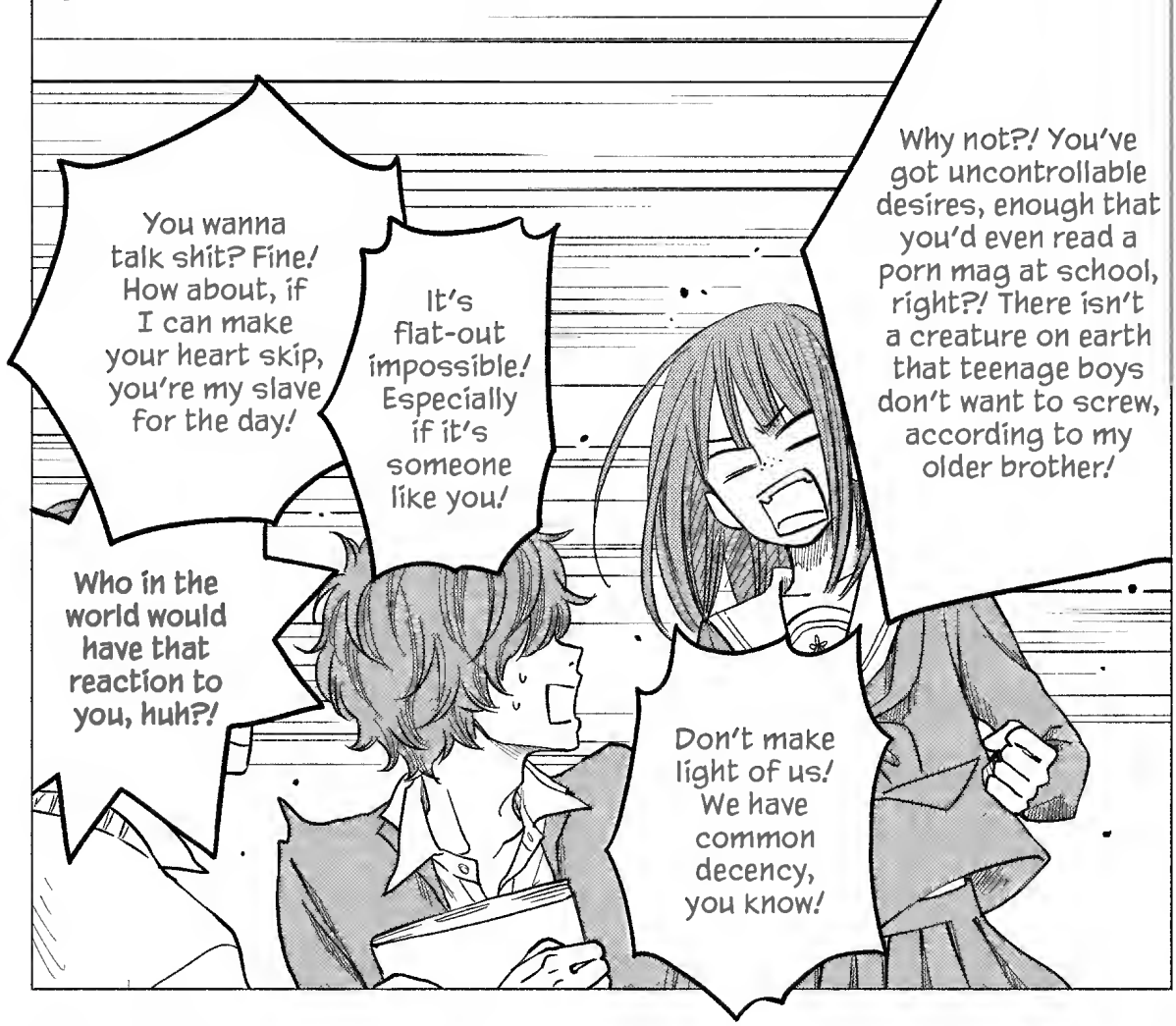
Forward, you fools!
Full speed ahead!
S... sorry... This is my limit...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
YOU GOTTA DO ME NEXT!
M-me, too!


Azuma, next up we have to go to the AV room.
These guys're taking me there now.

The gender power balance in Class Four...
...Seems a bit one-sided today.
CRASH!
Oh no!
My horses fell down!

Whoa!
Dream Boys
ドリームボーイ
NEW
What happened?
Well... it was nothing major...
Earlier today, during second break...

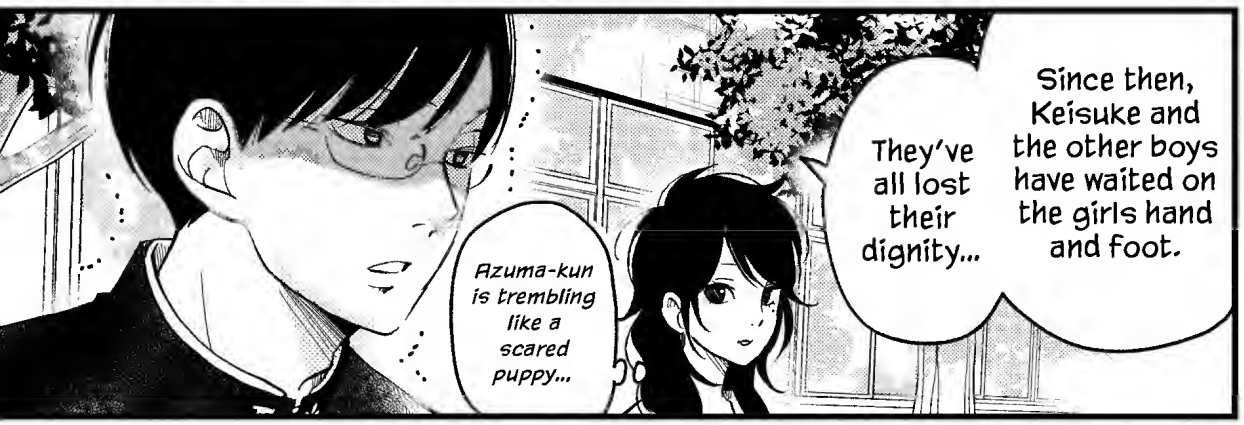
That's nice!
Whoa!
110
FLIP
Pretty nice.
Really nice!
They're really big!
They're pretty big.
They're so big!
Dream Boys
It just can't be resisted!
Pretty irresistible.
Irresistible!
Wowee!
110
FLIP
I mean, I don't care. If you wanna read a porn mag in the classroom, knock yourself out.
H-hey! It's fine, right?! It's not hurtin' anybody!
I'm just bored.
...Hey.
Do you like it that much?
UP
ULP...
Nah... no can do.
Give us a break.
Why don't you try lusting after me?

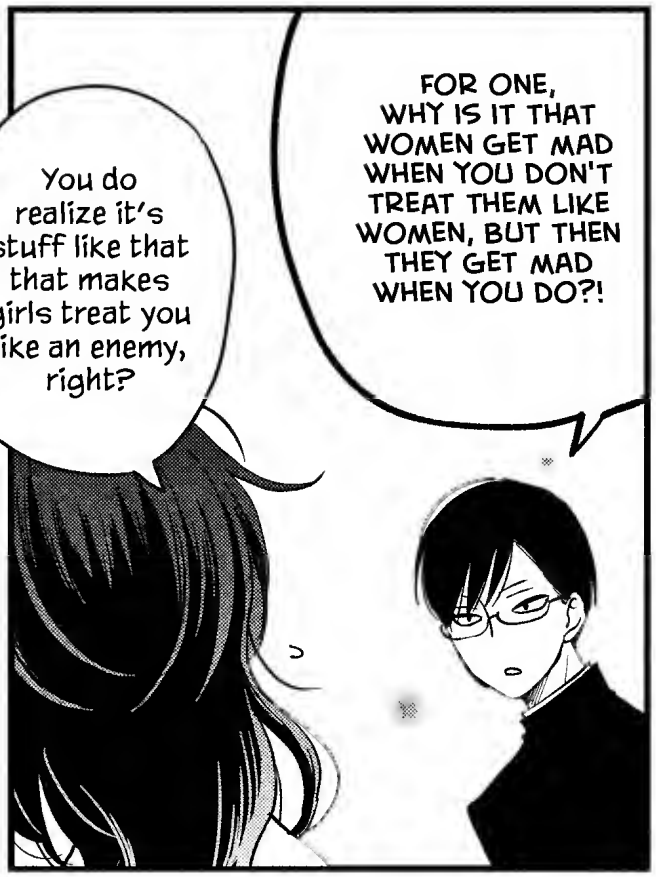

Why not?! You've got uncontrollable desires, enough that you'd even read a porn mag at school, right?! There isn't a creature on earth that teenage boys don't want to screw, according to my older brother!
It's flat-out impossible! Especially if it's someone like you!
You wanna talk shit? Fine! How about, if I can make your heart skip, you're my slave for the day!
Who in the world would have that reaction to you, huh?!
Don't make light of us! We have common decency, you know!

Ha ha ha! I got you good! You wanna see? You wanna see?
Dammit! My heart totally skipped!
Arghh!
あーあー
No! It was inevitable! It felt like a jolt ran through me!
And part of me is still disappointed she's wearing safety shorts ...

SHOCK
ギョッ
AH?!
FLIP
ひらり
There.

The very audacity of the Class Four girls is mind-boggling...
... it went kinda like that.
Okay! You guys're my man-servants now!
SCREECH


Azuma-kun is trembling like a scared puppy...
They've all lost their dignity...
Since then, Keisuke and the other boys have waited on the girls hand and foot.


You do realize it's stuff like that that makes girls treat you like an enemy, right?
FOR ONE, WHY IS IT THAT WOMEN GET MAD WHEN YOU DON'T TREAT THEM LIKE WOMEN, BUT THEN THEY GET MAD WHEN YOU DO?!

W-well... if you think about it as a way to communicate with them...
No! It's not just cute!
It's a game played by wild animals with too much free time!

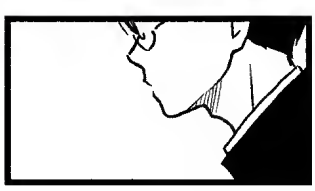
Still, even if I disagree with their methods, the assertiveness of the girls in Class Four is really something worth studying!
Unnecessary Ambition
I want to get Azuma-kun's heart to skip!
One mo-ment...
Hm?
It'll get wrinkled. I'll put it back.
AH HA HA HA HA!
WIGGLE
おり
WIGGLE
おり
I rolled up my skirt!
Aah... it's really embarrassing for some reason...
What's up? Need to use the restroom?
3cm
It's no good! He didn't notice!
THOP
たっ
FASTER, KEISUKE! FASTER!
DAMN IT! YOU LEFT YOUR MIRROR IN THE CLASSROOM? DO YOU EVEN NEED IT?!

I'm really glad I wasn't there.
Look at that! All that, just from peeking up a girl's skirt!
LESS TALKY, MORE WALKY!
Ah ha ha ha ha!
WE WON'T LET THIS BE FORGOTTEN! ...STARTING TOMORROW.
WHEEEEE WHEEEEE
...
So, if you had been there...
WOULD YOU HAVE LOOKED?
...
SIGH
Azuma-kun is such a gentle-man.
Ah ha ha
Ah... that's why you said that.
Who knows what would have happened if I'd been there.
The whole thing could have happened in my field of vision, though.
No way!
Ha ha ha!

No.
I just...
...
So, what about you? Do you read those?
Sometimes I see the pages out of the corner of my eye.
THE MAGAZINES THAT KEISUKE-KUN BRINGS?
Hm? Is that all?

It's still so strange to me that your friends would bring a magazine like that to school, though.
クスクス
he he he
Yeah, Keisuke likes that kind of stuff.
Especially in hard copy.

Boys are mysterious...
I can't help clean that way, can I?
...



You'd better not open this door!
CLACK
Now that I think about it, my little brother borrowed something like that from one of his friends the other day, and he shut himself in his room for the better part of an hour after telling me not to go in...
If a boy says not to open a door, it's really in your best interests not to open it.
Yeah, my grandma said that, too.
I wonder what that was all about?

To fluff up my image? Out of excessive self-consciousness?
I wonder if he really does look at that kind of stuff...?
What's the point of such a false conversation?!
For some reason...
...I've been lying about myself this whole time.
Eh he he... You're different from my brother, after all!
Just say it! Tell her! Tell her you really want to see up girls' skirts! Lay bare the stark reality that is yourself!
Ah ha ha... In— in which way?
Aizawa-san! To tell the truth...

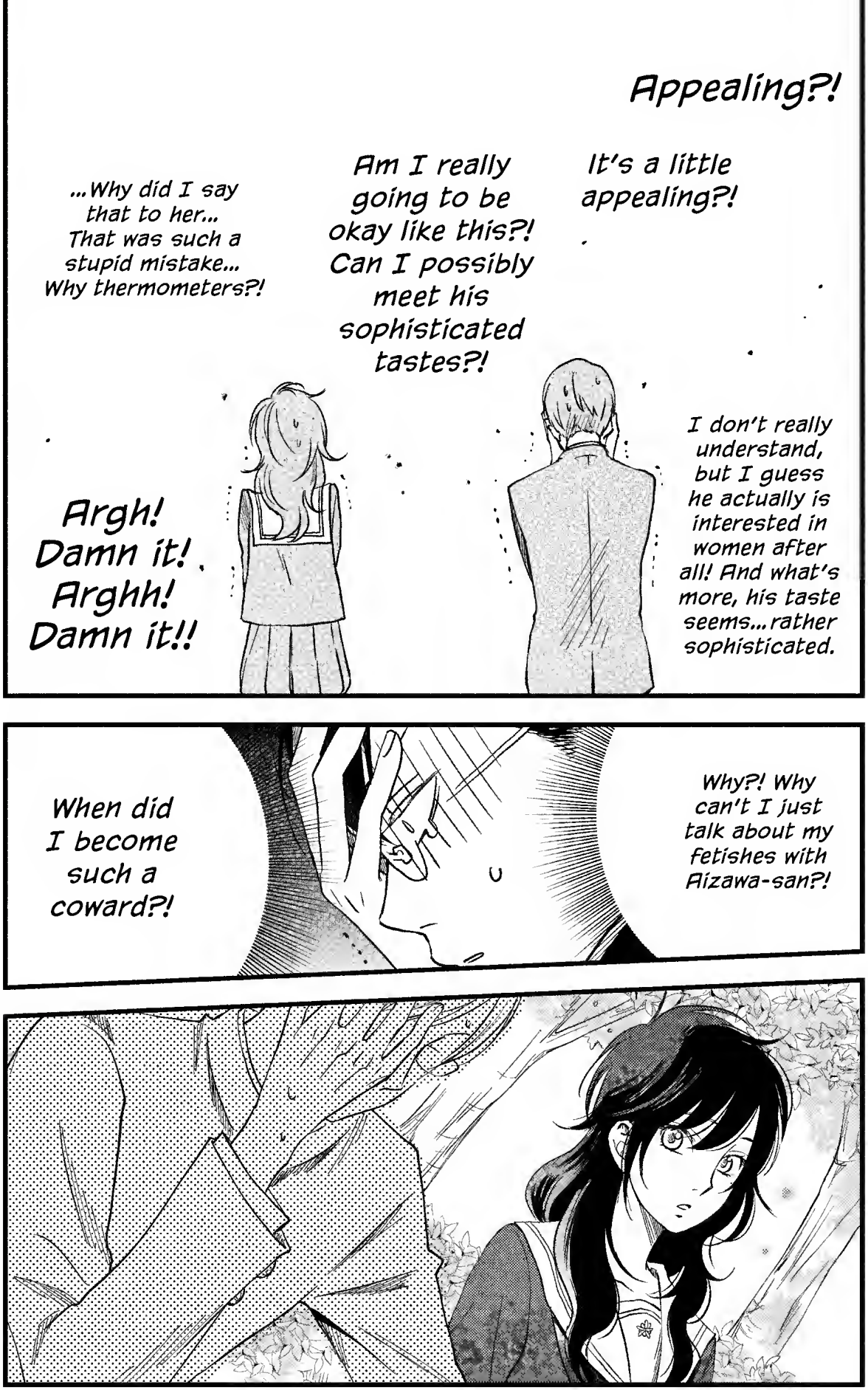
It's impossible! I can't say it! I shouldn't say it!
This is the same Aizawa-san that almost fainted from shock at merely seeing my leg hair! If I tell her I've perused the vast bulk of Keisuke's collection, she'll think I'm an idiot!
What kind of situation have I gotten myself into?!
This is social suicide, isn't it?!
This...
Azuma-kun...
...doesn't seem to be interested in girls.
I thought pretty much every boy was into this sort of thing...
...but Azuma-kun isn't.
I shouldn't have lumped him in with my brother.
Come of think of it, there was that time once before when he saw up my skirt, and he didn't really seem affected by it...
But...wait. He said that thing about "face, boobs, and body" before...
in volume one

S-
SO, MY BRO-THER-
Huh?!
JUMP
ヒッ
My brother's magazine had a bunch of women in these, um, these nurse outfits and things like that...

Maybe...
...he likes girls. Just not me.

Do you like... that stuff?
Like... injec-tions... thermome-ters...

...
No?
I guess that kind of thing is...
...a little appeal-ing?


Appealing?!
It's a little appealing?!
Am I really going to be okay like this?! Can I possibly meet his sophisticated tastes?!
...Why did I say that to her... That was such a stupid mistake... Why thermometers?!
I don't really understand, but I guess he actually is interested in women after all! And what's more, his taste seems...rather sophisticated.
Argh! Damn it! Arghh! Damn it!!
When did I become such a coward?!
Why?! Why can't I just talk about my fetishes with Aizawa-san?!

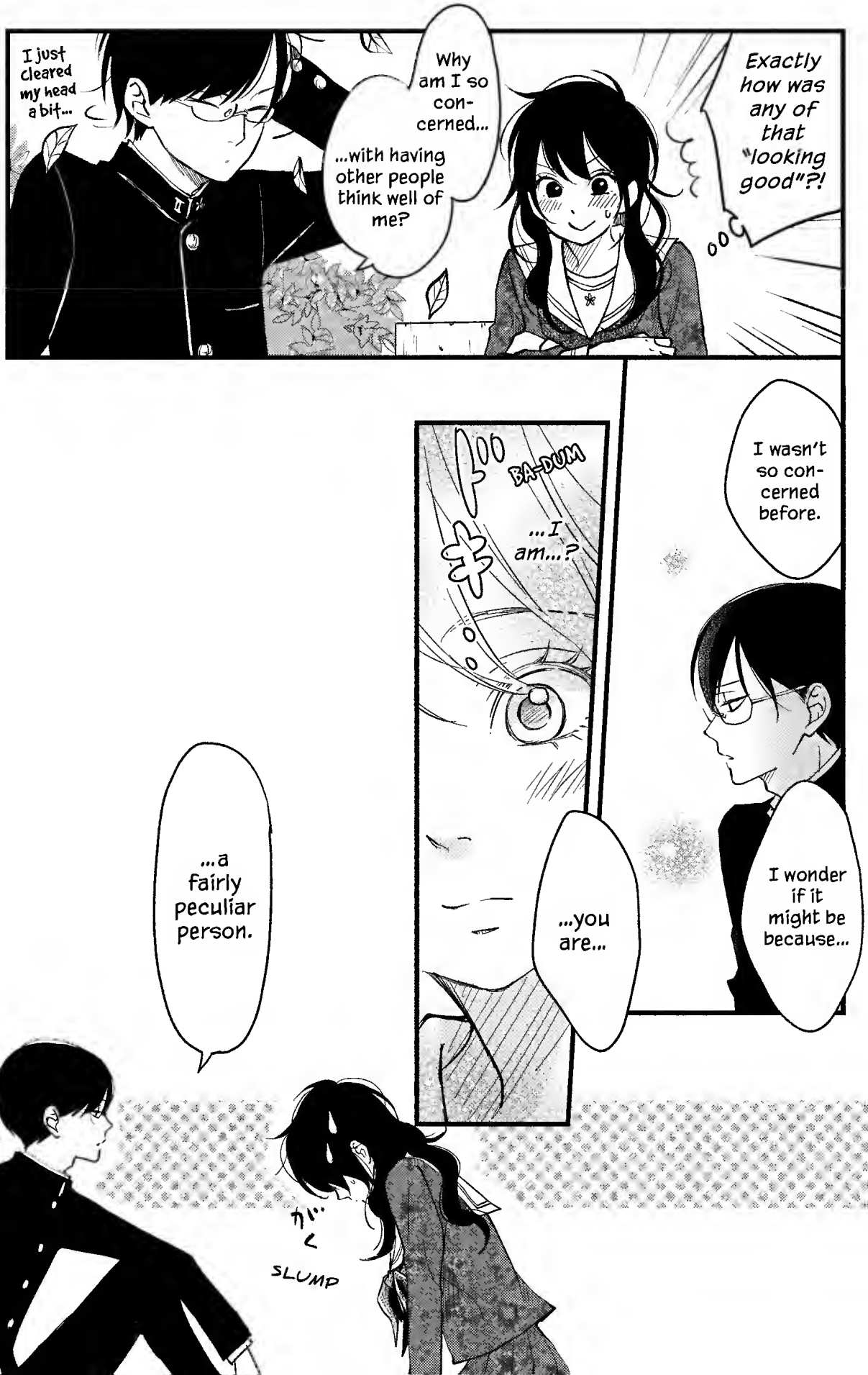
Are you okay?
You look a little ill.
AAH!

CRASH
SH
SH
SH
SH
A-Azuma-kun?!

You just...
...got really close to me...
...and I was surprised.

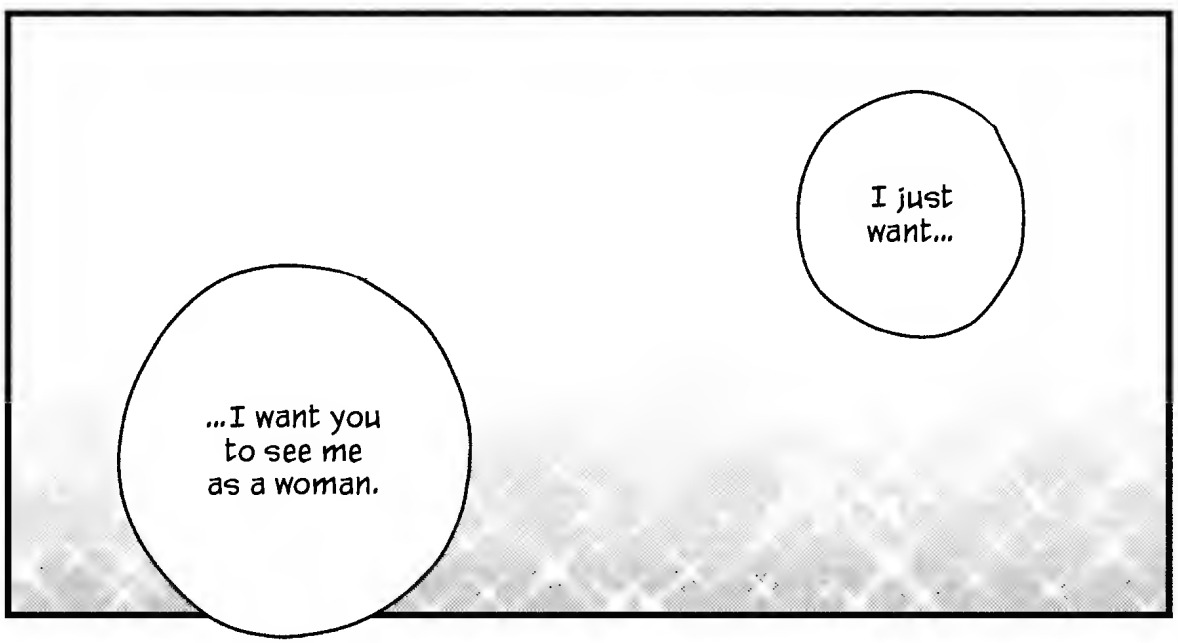
Are... are you okay?
I'm fine. This is nothing.

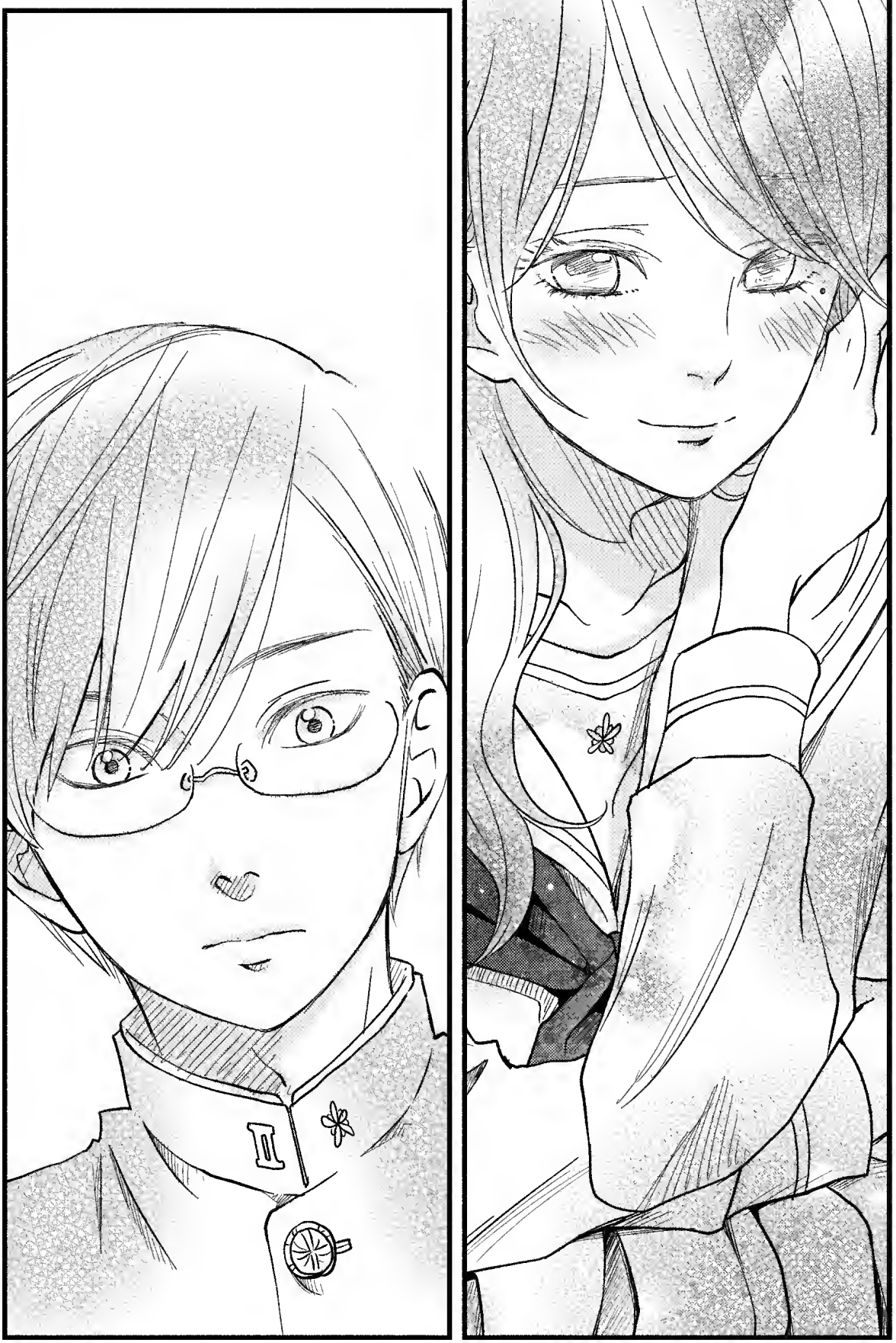
...sorry, but...
...can we just forget about today's conversation?
I'm off my game today...
...for some reason.
I just wanted...
...to look good in front of you.


I just cleared my head a bit...
Why am I so concerned...
...with having other people think well of me?
Exactly how was any of that "looking good"?!
I wasn't so concerned before.
I wonder if it might be because...
BA-DUM
...I am...?
...you are...
...a fairly peculiar person.
SLUMP

Oh? Sorry.
A peculiar person?
...Azuma-kun.
You shouldn't say that about a girl.

Also...
...on that topic...
...I think I'm also trying mostly to look good in front of you.


I just want...
...I want you to see me as a woman.



I–I MEAN–
I CAN'T SEE YOU IN ANY OTHER WAY!
Oh! The warning bell.

キーン
DING
コーン
DONG

I want you to see me...
...as a woman.

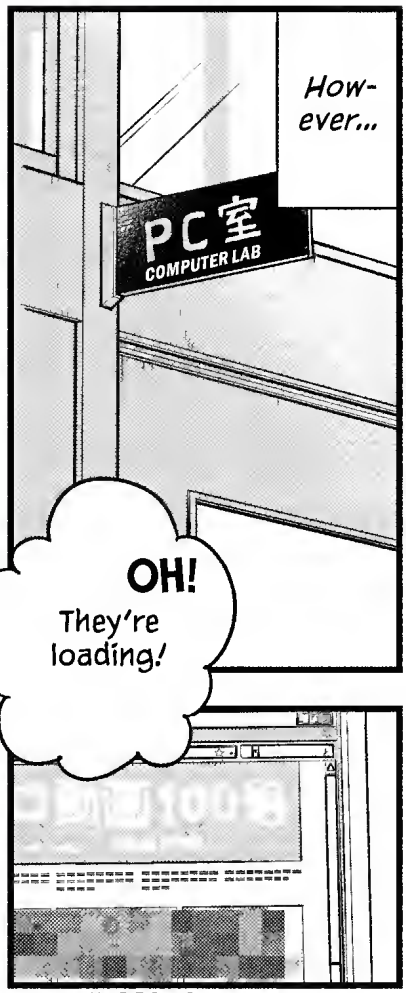
Aizawa-san!
I, um...
I usually do.
Think of you as a woman, I mean.
What's more, I...
WHOOSH
Ah!
TUMBLE

S-sorry! I dropped my toast sticks.
I wonder why... but...
ドキ BA-DUM
...things feel a little different today.
Let me help.
Just then...
...an unusually strong wind gusted by.
FWOOOOOSH

FLAP
WOW
SHOOSH

...
U-umm...
Don't worry.
Look.
Before, you said that since you were wearing tights, it was okay, right?

Should you ever find yourself in this situation, the correct response is, "Don't worry, I didn't see anything."
ALTHOUGH IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME, I THINK WITH THE PANTYHOSE IS MUCH SEXIER...!



*VIDEO TOP 100

Azuma-kun chose the wrong time...
...to break his streak of deceptions.
In the end, whether you view them as women or not, they still get mad...
I think you might be using a different meaning of "as a woman," dude.
From us, at least.

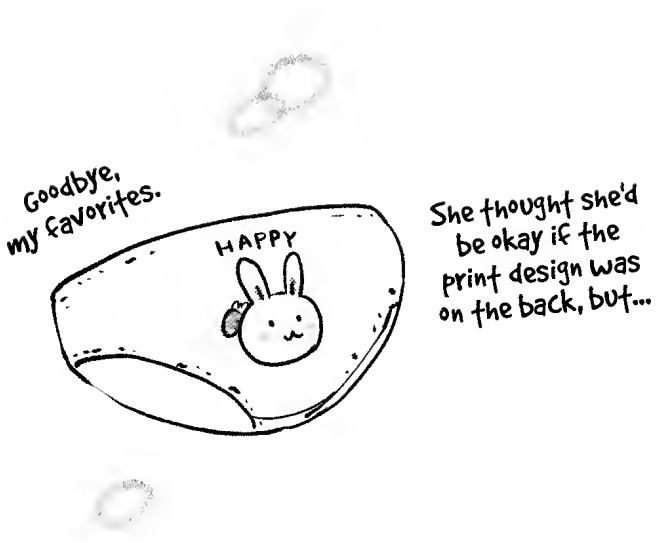
*Maga-Rin 1

Whoa, nice!
New videos are up!
Idiot.
This site has the cutest girls, I swear.
Dude... Not during class.

Where?
You never learn, do you?

Leave us alone!
This is an important part of our social education!
Ugh.
You're actually serious.
You're disgusting.
Disgusting.
The disgusting-est!
That wasn't hard at all.
What makes me so hesitant to say these things in front of Aizawa-san?
Idiots! Sleazebags! Filth!
OH!
THIS GIRL LOOKS LIKE AIZAWA-CHAN!

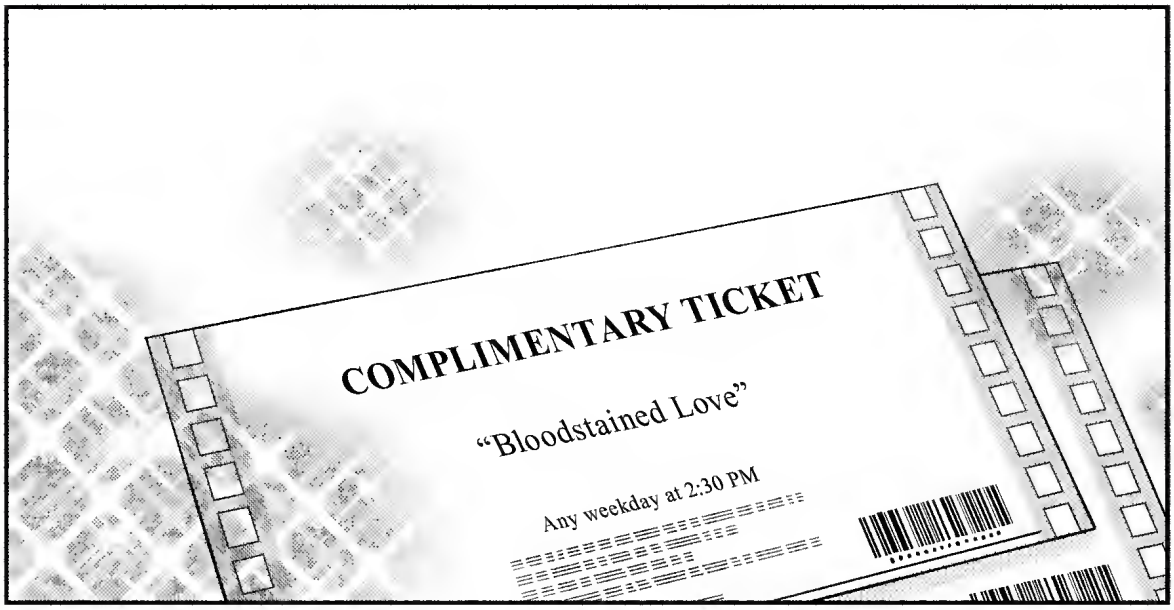
Also, don't use "chan" for her without asking.
BAP
She doesn't.
Ow!
Hmm... I'm not too sure.
Does she?
She does! She does!
The correct word...
...is "special," not "peculiar."
Hey, Aizawa-san.
Hello, Azuma-kun.
Azuma-kun has yet to realize it...
...but Aizawa-san continues to try every day.

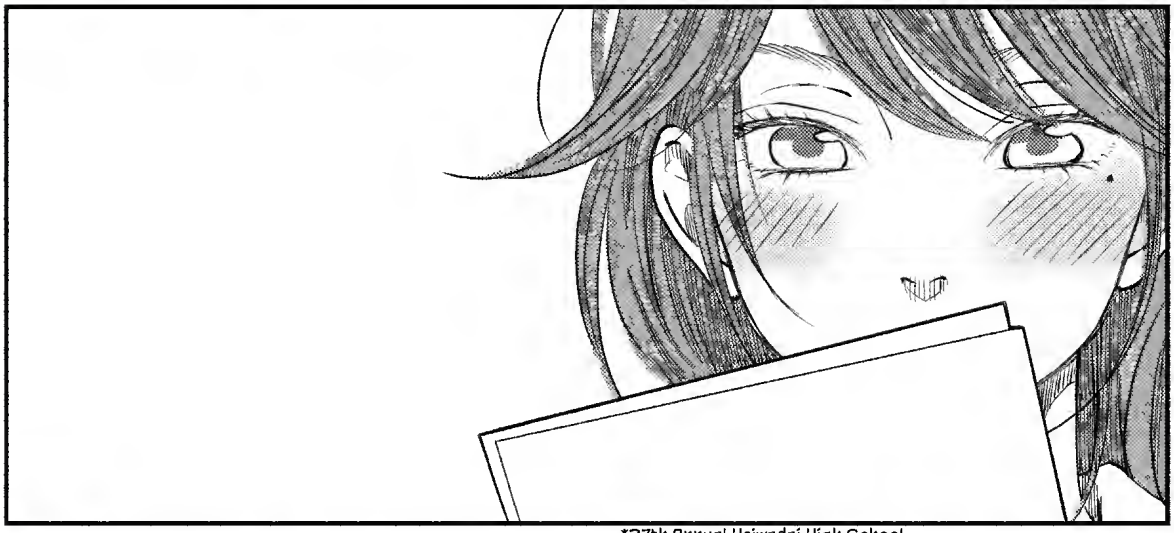

Goodbye, my favorites.
HAPPY
She thought she'd be okay if the print design was on the back, but...

CHICKEN FIGHT
Whenever you're ready.
Right here?
You want me to get up here?
What? Really?
You were the one who said it.
"Be my horse," you said.
In the end, a skirt just wouldn't do.
Oh, so *now* it's embarrassing?
...I'll change clothes!
DASH

Piggyback
You touched my butt!
How else can I do it?

ep. 10 Let's Go on a Date!





*27th Annual Heiwadai High School HARVEST FESTIVAL

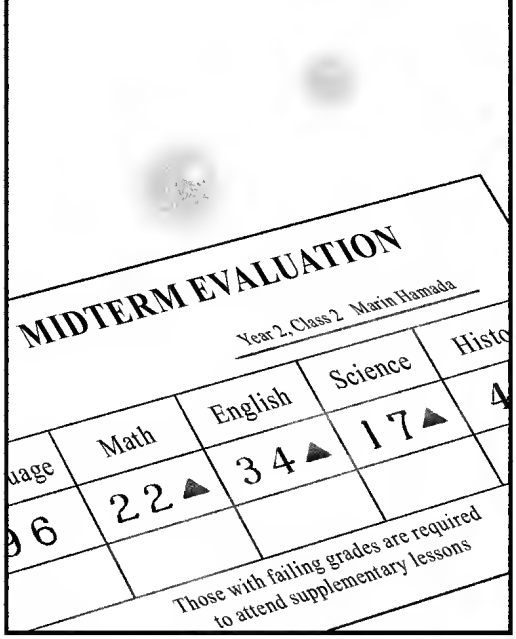
*FIRE EXTINGUISHER

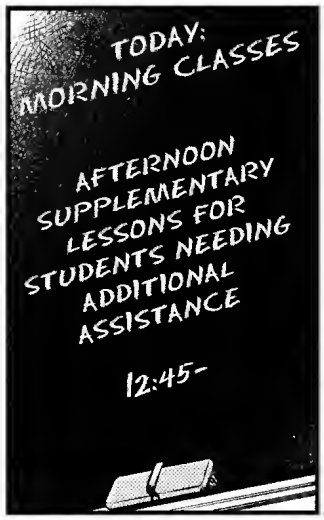
YES!!
YES!!
YES!!
I love you. Let's be boyfriend and girlfriend!
Thank you for coming with me today, Azuma-kun.
My pleasure! The movie was very enjoyable, Aizawa-san.
The same goes for me, Aizawa-san.
Although, I couldn't keep my eyes off you, Azuma-kun.
A-AZUMA-KUN! ARE YOU FREE AFTER CLASS THE NEXT TIME WE HAVE MORNING CLASSES?!
IF YOU WANT, MAYBE WE COULD...!
CLACK ガラ
職員室
*FACULTY OFFICE
Excuse me...
If I want that to happen, I'd better get moving! I've got to invite Azuma-kun!
I have to ask before his schedule fills up!

*27th Annual Heiwadai High School HARVEST FESTIVAL

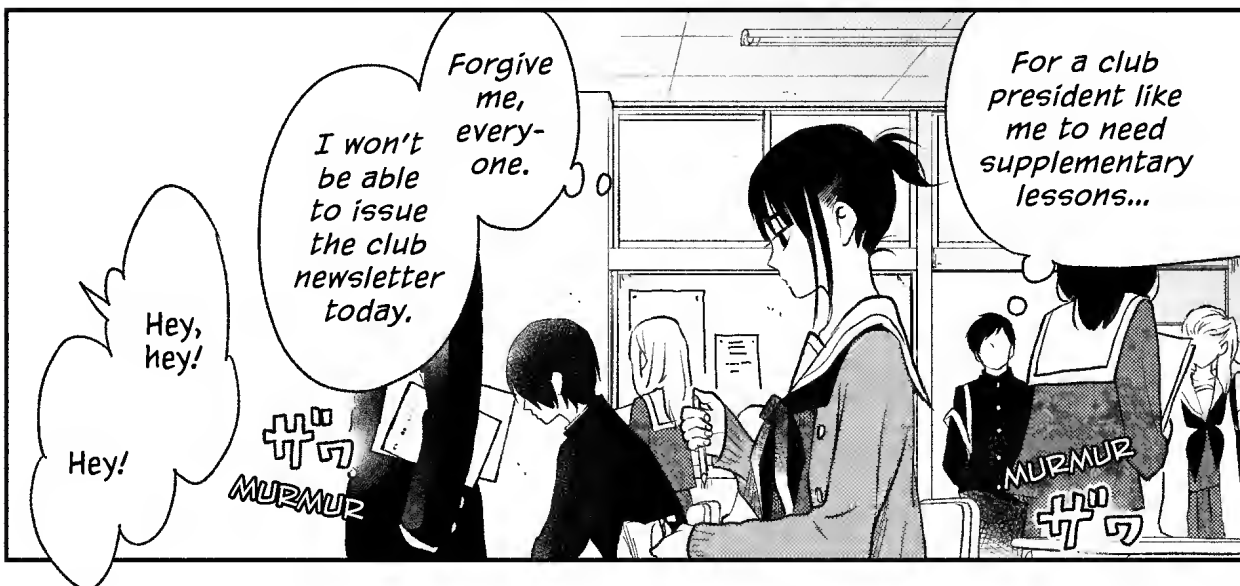
WH-WHAT?
FAILING MARKS?
B-BUT YOU WEAR GLASSES, AZUMA-KUN!
How rude! Don't judge others based on appearance alone!
I may wear glasses, but I despise studying!

On weekdays I'm always busy with something or other, and on weekends I have my card game events and tournaments...
DING DONG
oh! The warning bell!
Although, the "supplementary lessons" here are really just a few extra worksheets.
But blowing off things like that is what caused me to be called out by the teacher.
Also, my glasses are just for show.
WH-WHAT?!
But... what?
I can't...
Supplementary lessons... fake glasses...
I...
IF I'D KNOWN ALL THAT...
...THEN I WOULD HAVE TAKEN SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS, TOO!
DING DONG


MIDTERM EVALUATION
Year 2, Class 2 Marin Hamada
Math
English
Science
22▲
34▲
17▲
Those with failing grades are required to attend supplementary lessons

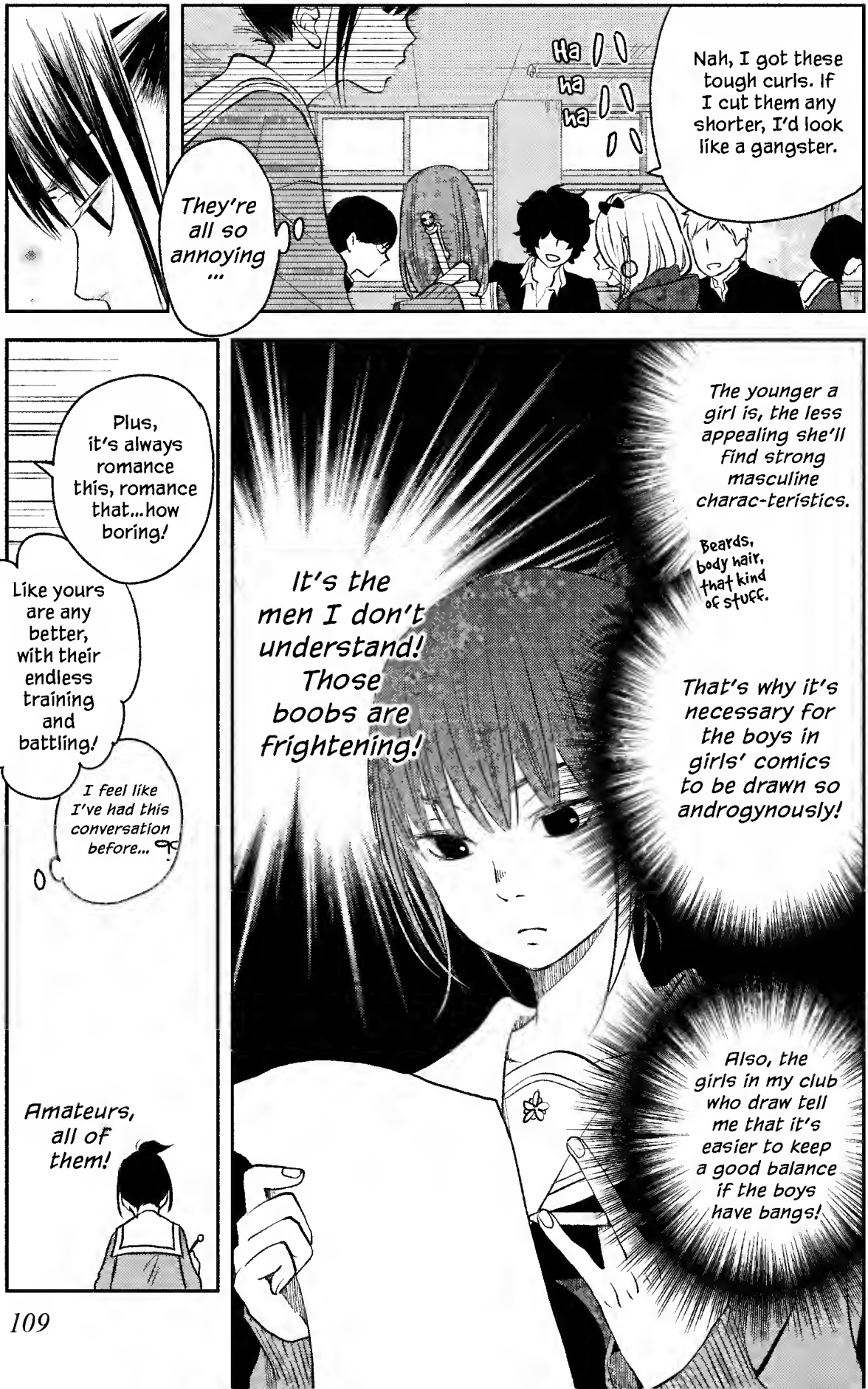

TODAY:
MORNING CLASSES
AFTERNOON SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS FOR STUDENTS NEEDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
12:45-

MURMUR
MURMUR


Hey, hey!
Hey!
I won't be able to issue the club newsletter today.
Forgive me, everyone.
MURMUR
For a club president like me to need supplementary lessons...
MURMUR

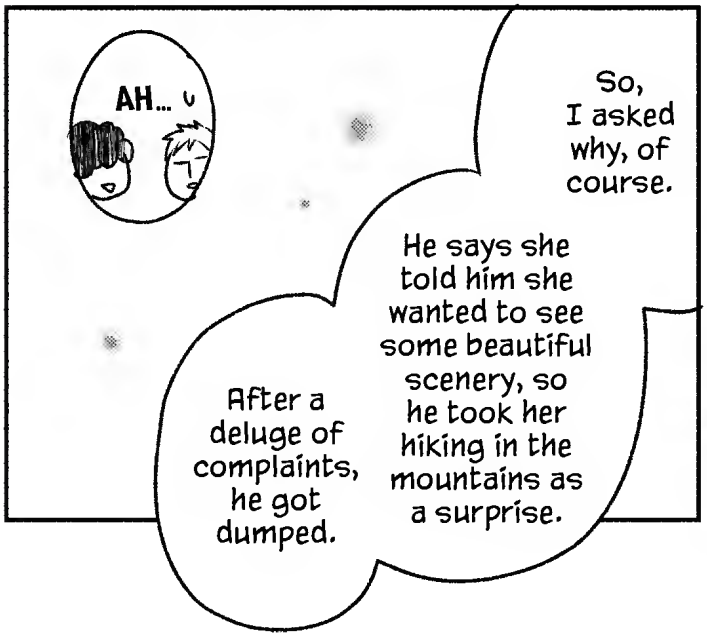
MURMUR
Welcome to the home away from home for us failing students, the so-called Abyss!
Yo!
Coach is gonna have my head for this...
What's this? The more people who waltz in, the more faces I recognize!
MURMUR
Don't make up weird names for it.
Okay, everyone. All we need to do to get out of these lessons is fill out and turn in these worksheets. This stuff will be on the finals, too, so remember it.
Let's divide up the work so we can all get out of here.
OKAY!
Oho! You seem pretty experienced with this, Azuma.
Let's get donuts once we're done!
CHATTER
CHATTER
Huh?
What're you doing here, Azuma? Don't you wear glasses?
How rude! Don't judge others—
Azuma's a failing student, too!
Then why bother with the glasses?!

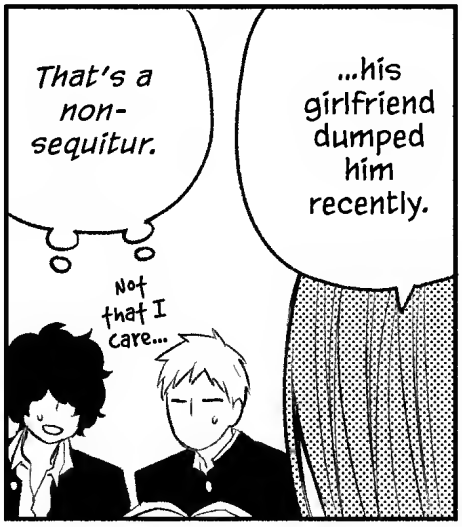
...
So, anyway, the other day...
...me and my brother went to this manga café...
Together, unfortunately.
Well, I guess it was all right...
...but why is it that in comics for boys, all the girls are drawn with these ridiculously huge boobs? They're way too big!
Especially the porn comics. We're talking beyond human limits here.
That's just scary.
What did you read?
Ah, it's all wish fulfill-ment.
If you wanna talk, how about the stuff you girls read? All the guys in your comics look like they're girls, too!
Trembling Love! ①~⑤
They've got, like, way-too-long bangs and stuff.
If a guy looks like that, you know he's a total narcissist.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.


They're all so annoying...
Ha ha ha
Nah, I got these tough curls. If I cut them any shorter, I'd look like a gangster.
Plus, it's always romance this, romance that...how boring!
Like yours are any better, with their endless training and battling!
I feel like I've had this conversation before...
Amateurs, all of them!
It's the men I don't understand! Those boobs are frightening!
The younger a girl is, the less appealing she'll find strong masculine charac-teristics.
Beards, body hair, that kind of stuff.
That's why it's necessary for the boys in girls' comics to be drawn so androgynously!
Also, the girls in my club who draw tell me that it's easier to keep a good balance if the boys have bangs!

I don't really read girls' comics, either.
Romance stories are really stupid.
FIDGET
FIDGET
I'm surprised someone like her reads comics, too.
So, my brother was also saying...

To put it another way, the story hinges on how those tensions are resolved!
Girls' comics and boys' comics are fundamentally the same. For comics with a story, the characters need to develop. The very moment the characters stop developing, the story's wrapped up.
Of course, if you just keep growing, the story's basically over, anyway.
...not that I've written anything.
That's why you always need a new antagonist or new relationship drama!


AH...
So, I asked why, of course.
He says she told him she wanted to see some beautiful scenery, so he took her hiking in the mountains as a surprise.
After a deluge of complaints, he got dumped.

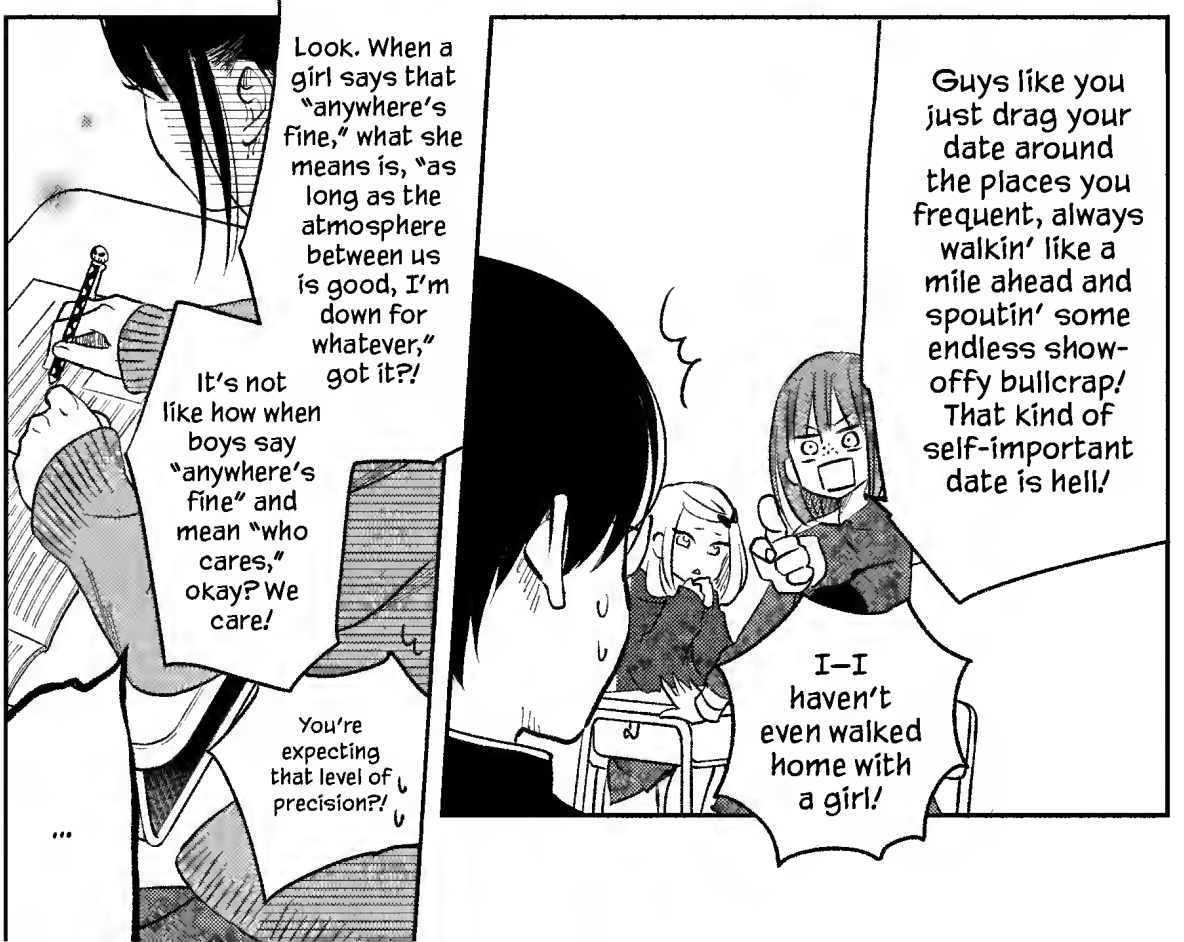

That's a non-sequitur.
...his girlfriend dumped him recently.
Not that I care...

Sounds like she snapped on him.
What's wrong with hiking?
Girls always take the efforts guys make and just throw 'em in the gutter.
That's happened to me before.

What's the problem?
He sounds like a good boyfriend.

Wh—?!
Azuma, you're out!

FIRST, WHAT'S WITH EQUATING "BEAUTIFUL SCENERY" WITH THE MOUNTAINS?
DID SHE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MOUN-TAINS?!
AND THEN THERE'S SPRINGING IT ON HER OUT OF NOWHERE? HIKES CAN BE TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT PREP AND FORE-WARNING!
THAT'S NOT A VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE, NOW IS IT?!
IN SHORT...
CHECK IN WITH HER, DAMN IT!


Guys like you just drag your date around the places you frequent, always walkin' like a mile ahead and spoutin' some endless show-offy bullcrap! That kind of self-important date is hell!
I-I haven't even walked home with a girl!
Look. When a girl says that "anywhere's fine," what she means is, "as long as the atmosphere between us is good, I'm down for whatever," got it?!
It's not like how when boys say "anywhere's fine" and mean "who cares," okay? We care!
You're expecting that level of precision?!
...

Exactly where are we going, Hamarin?
It's a secret.
STRIDE
STRIDE
I see...
There's a lot of really nice used book-stores in this area.
RARE BOOKS
Ah, you see, this author said this thing and this other thing and...
BLAH BLAH BLAH
I see...
I've done this.
I've done this to Nozomin before!

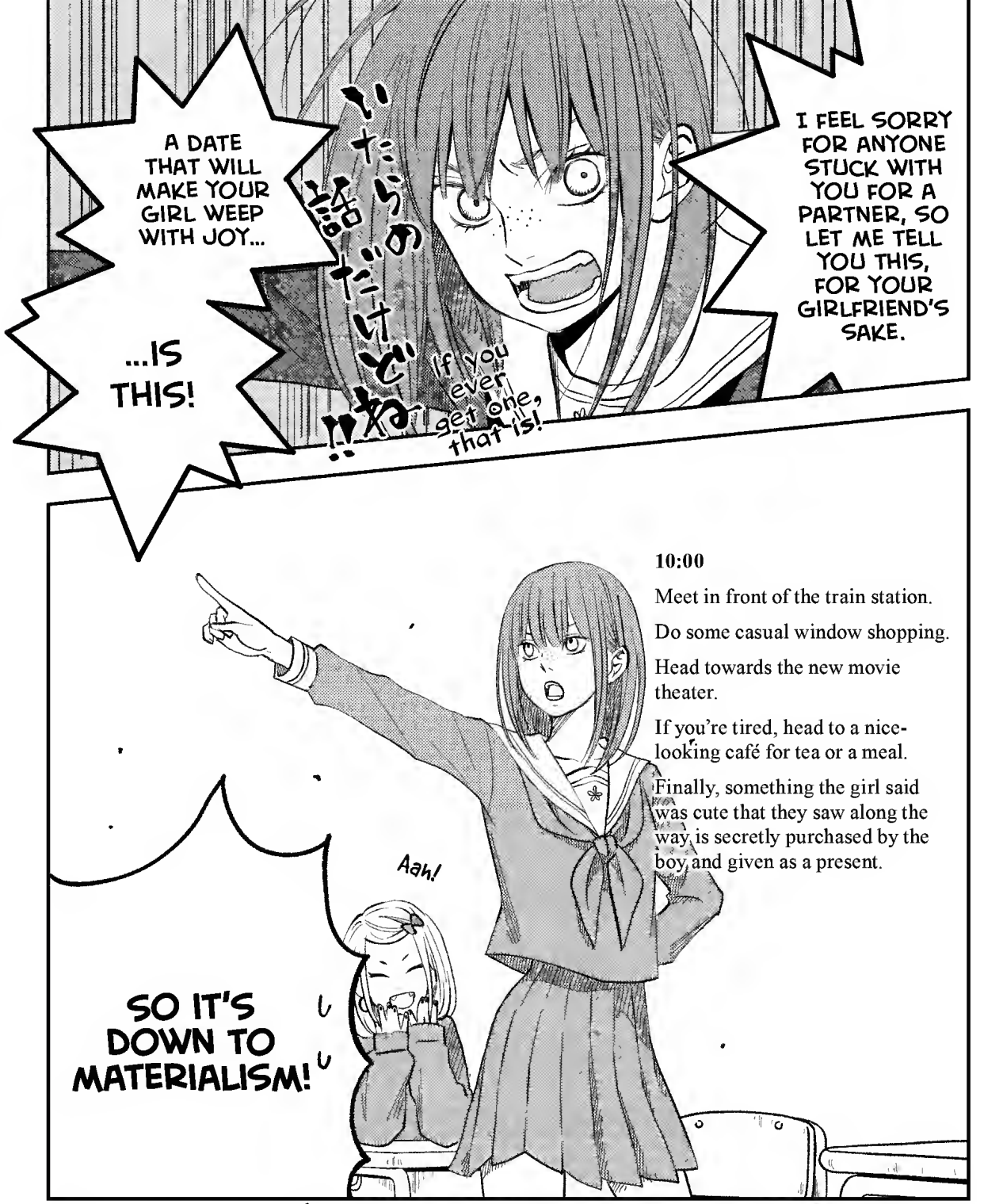
...and I didn't have much experience with the usual stuff...!
B-because... she told me "anywhere's fine"...

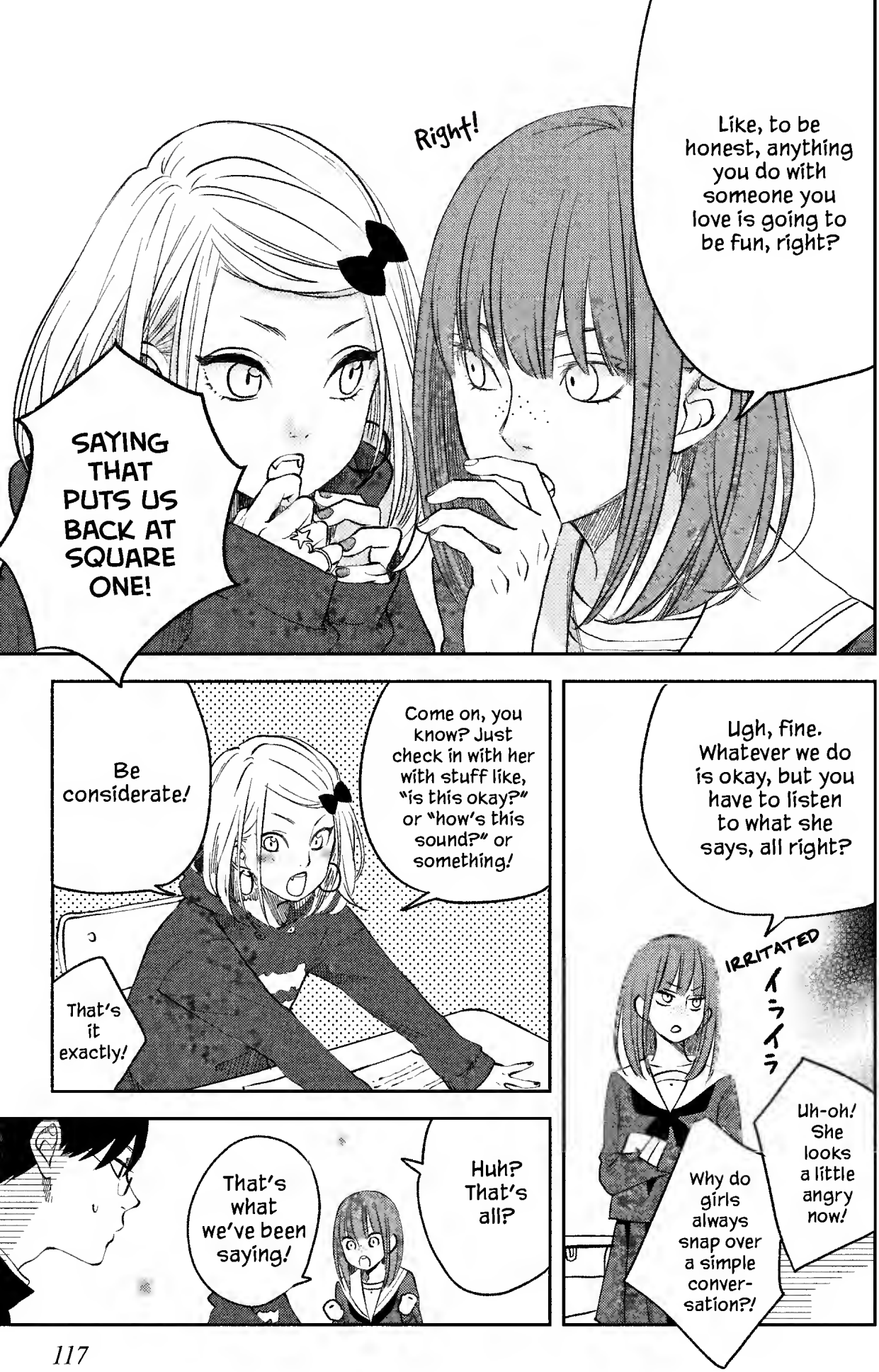
Urghhh... I'm on the same level as Azuma...
First of all, it's only natural that the things I suggest come from my areas of knowledge and confidence!

Was your smile a lie?
Hooray!
Look, Hamarin! These ones are free!
Aah... Nozo-min...
Having someone like you for a friend just made me so happy I couldn't contain myself...
My beloved Nozomin...
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë
CLEARANCE

Tch! I see you've held nothing back.
I want to die.
I want to erase that past disaster!
The... the true essence?!
Let me just say, I understand the true essence of dating!
Is that so?
What's "easy peasy"?
It means something that can be easily done.
I could very handily take you on multiple dates that you'd enjoy, easy peasy!
NUMBER ONE, GOOD FOOD! NUMBER TWO, A TRENDY LOCATION! NUMBER THREE, ROMANTIC BUT NOT STIFLING! THAT'S ALL YOU NEED, IS IT NOT?!
P...PRETTY MUCH?

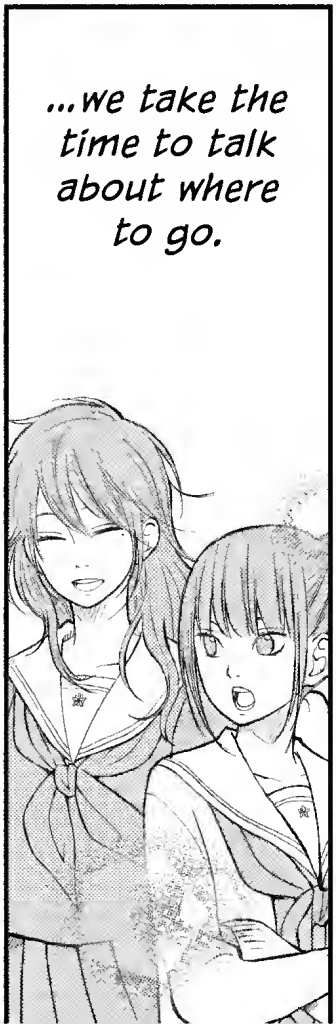
My well-thought-out plan for a perfect date...
...is this!
9:00 Meet in front of the train station.
9:01 Confirm both parties have arrived safely, then depart.
9:10 Arrive at location #1: a trendy knickknack shop. Make a second round to the parts she liked.
9:30 Go to location #2: a churros stand popular with women. My recommendation is the very popular strawberry flavor.
9:45 First bathroom break: Escort her nonchalantly and address her worries and insecurities.
9:50 Head to location #3: a nearby park. Rent a lovers' paddleboat and
WHAT THE HELL? IT'S WAY TOO ROUTINE!
THERE'S HARDLY ROOM TO BREATHE, IT'S SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE!
Like, for example, what if your (hypothetical) girlfriend told you she wanted to have tea?
Also, leaving only five minutes for a girl's bathroom break isn't gonna happen.
The schedule can't be changed on short notice.
We visit the cafe at 11:35.
What an idiot!

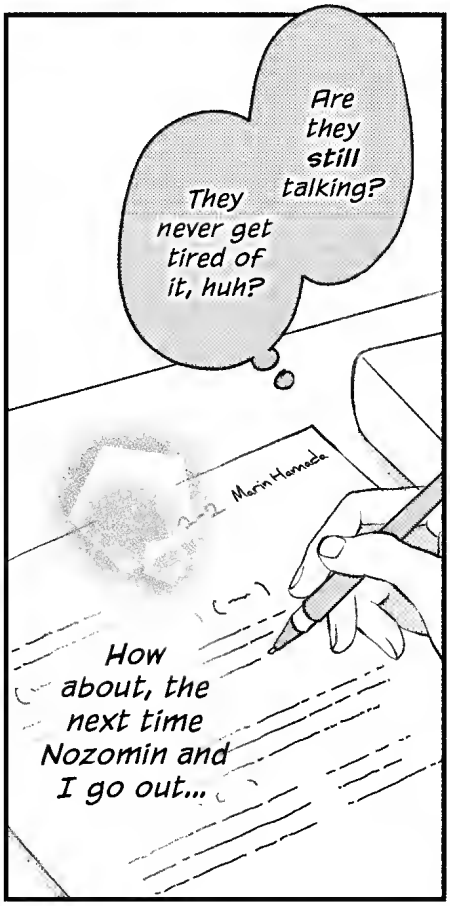

I FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE STUCK WITH YOU FOR A PARTNER, SO LET ME TELL YOU THIS, FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S SAKE.
いたらの話だけどね!!
If you ever get one, that is!
A DATE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR GIRL WEEP WITH JOY...
...IS THIS!
10:00
Meet in front of the train station.
Do some casual window shopping.
Head towards the new movie theater.
If you're tired, head to a nice-looking café for tea or a meal.
Finally, something the girl said was cute that they saw along the way is secretly purchased by the boy and given as a present.
Aah!
SO IT'S DOWN TO MATERIALISM!
Ugh. What a hassle.
What do you mean by "nice-looking," anyway? Give me words!
And don't say "intuition"!
That's not how the plan goes!
If you want to surprise her, this is how to do it!
The date is topped off by a small surprise.


Like, to be honest, anything you do with someone you love is going to be fun, right?
Right!
SAYING THAT PUTS US BACK AT SQUARE ONE!
Ugh, fine. Whatever we do is okay, but you have to listen to what she says, all right?
IRRITATED
イライラ
Uh-oh! She looks a little angry now!
Why do girls always snap over a simple conversation?!
Come on, you know? Just check in with her with stuff like, "is this okay?" or "how's this sound?" or something!
Be considerate!
That's it exactly!
Huh? That's all?
That's what we've been saying!

Dating is a group effort!
It's already fun just to talk about what you'd like to do!
So it's all about good communication.
You got it!
If that's the kind of thing that will make her happy...
Certainly...
...if that's true...
...it's worth thinking about.

I'm going to kill Azuma.
You bastard! It's Aizawa-chan, isn't it?! You want to ask her out?!
Hm? I was talking about my hypothetical partner, of course.
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS?
WHO IS IT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I WONDER?
More the other way around, actually?
Ha ha
Aah!

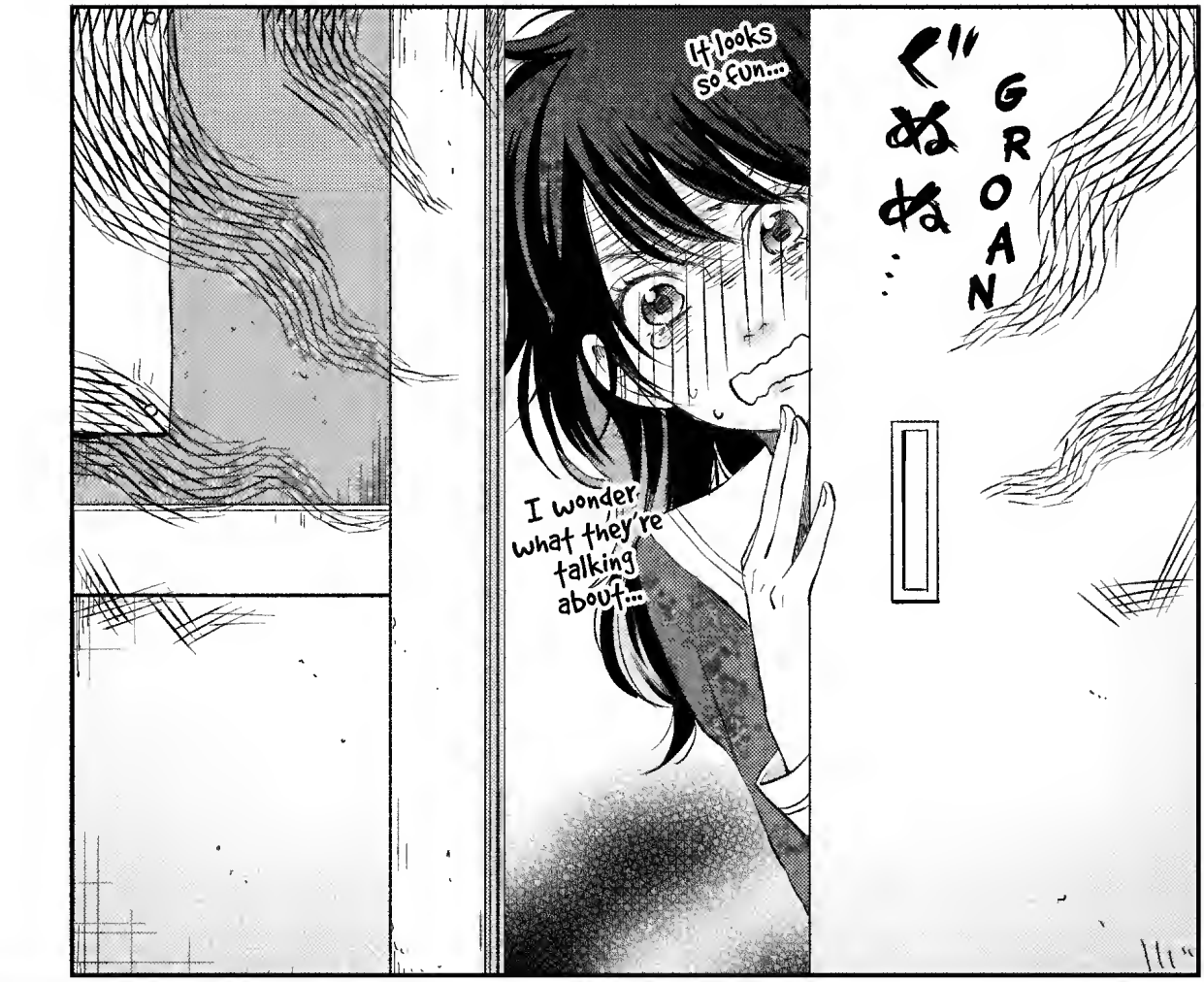

...we take the time to talk about where to go.


Are they still talking?
They never get tired of it, huh?
Marin Hanada
How about, the next time Nozomin and I go out...

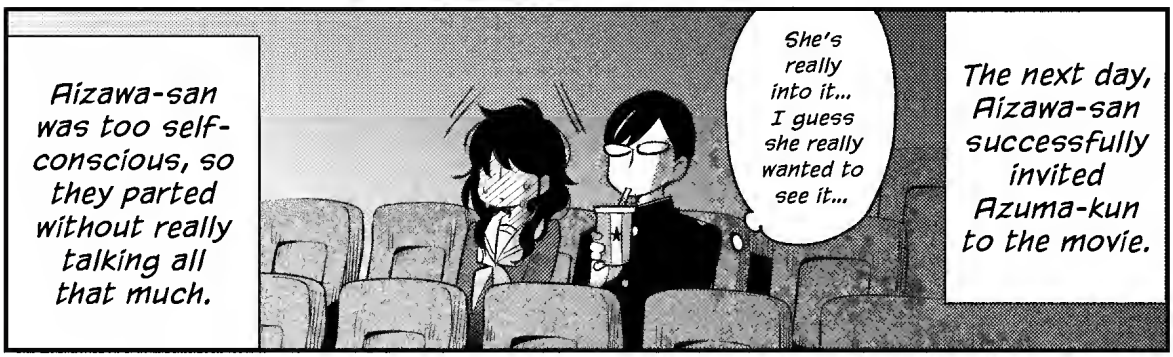
Why Aizawa-san, anyway?
By the way, how are your worksheets coming along? Have you finished?
Not at all!
So, this morning, my dog...

We talk to one another...
...and anticipate the date.
I'm sure that will make it a lot more fun.

It might really be "anywhere's fine."
I wonder...
Where would Nozomin want to go?
After all, the Nozomin I know...
...the Nozomin I know quite well...


GROAN
It looks so fun...
I wonder what they're talking about...

...wants nothing more than to look at Azuma-kun.
YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP DOING THIS, NOZOMIN.
Hamarin! You have to tell me how to get a failing grade!
Let's go home.
ガラ
RATTLE
D-NG
ドーン
DOONG
Whoa! You scared me, Aizawa-san! What are you doing here? Peeping?

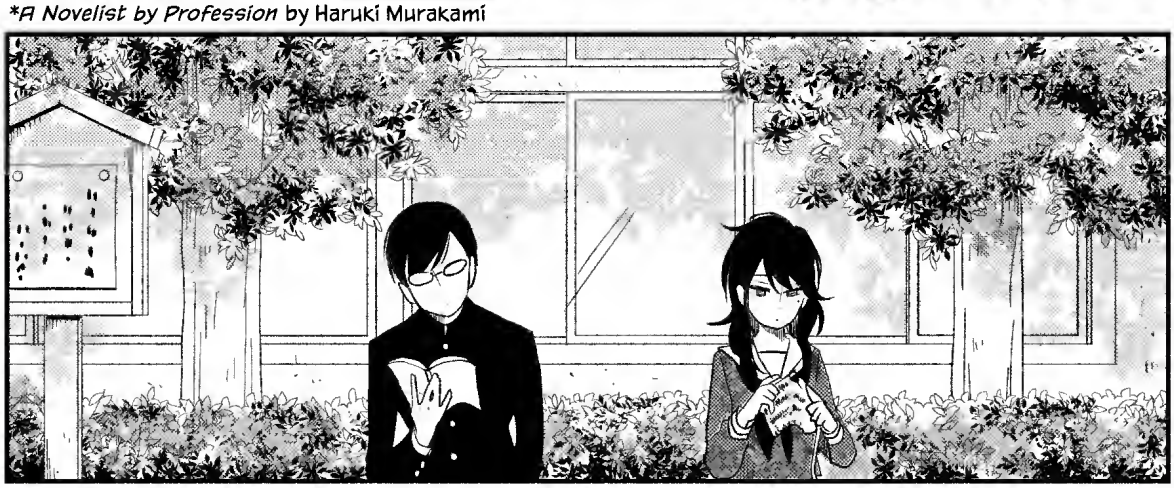

Aizawa-san was too self-conscious, so they parted without really talking all that much.
She's really into it... I guess she really wanted to see it...
The next day, Aizawa-san successfully invited Azuma-kun to the movie.

I'd love to see the World's Most Bizarre Murders exhibit.
Asking where she'd like to go
?!
An unexpected answer.

LET'S GO ON A DATE!
CINEMA
Here.
TH-TH-THANK—
FROZEN SOLID
Hello. This is Azuma. Aizawa-san won some free movie tickets, so we're going to see a movie.
That's pretty harsh.
KNOCK IT OFF, DAMN IT!
HRAGH!
For whatever reason, Aizawa-san isn't very talkative today.
That's when I noticed it...
Aizawa-san was...
...staring directly at me the whole time.
I never told him thanks for the drink...!
Did she notice that I found the movie boring?
I wonder if I did something wrong?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
Even though he bought it for me in return for the ticket...

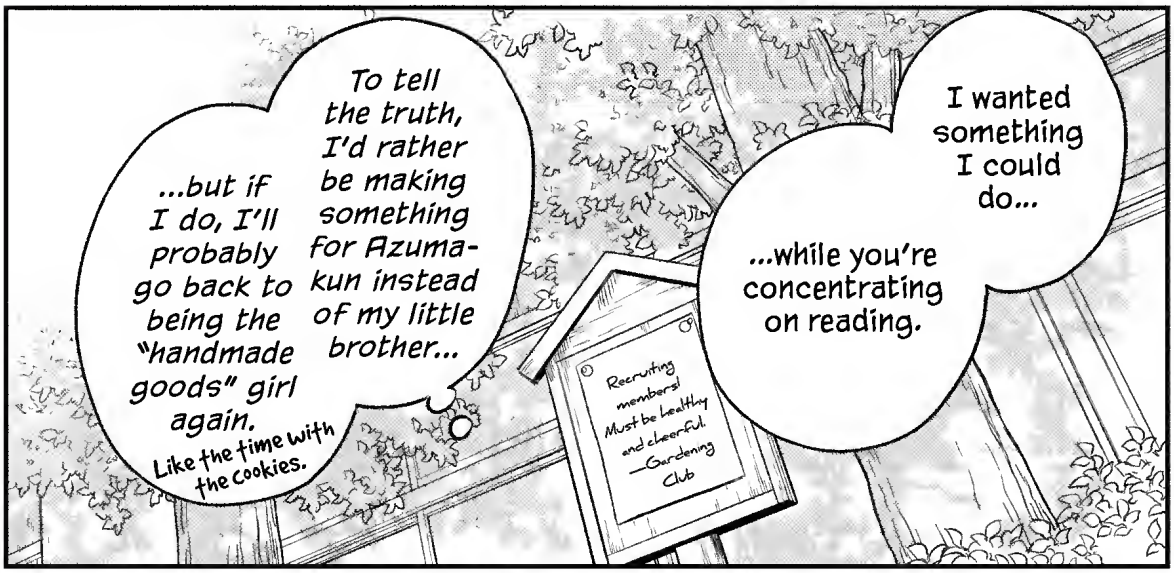
on the way home
!!
Checking in with her
Thanks for inviting me.

*A Novelist by Profession by Haruki Murakami



Aizawa-san...
...what's that?
This?
I'm knitting gloves.
My brother gave me 300 yen* to make them.
He wanted them to look like the ones in a picture he gave me.

*about $2.75


I wanted something I could do...
...while you're concentrating on reading.
To tell the truth, I'd rather be making something for Azuma-kun instead of my little brother...
...but if I do, I'll probably go back to being the "handmade goods" girl again.
Like the time with the cookies.
Recruiting members! Must be healthy and cheerful. —Gardening Club

My hand?

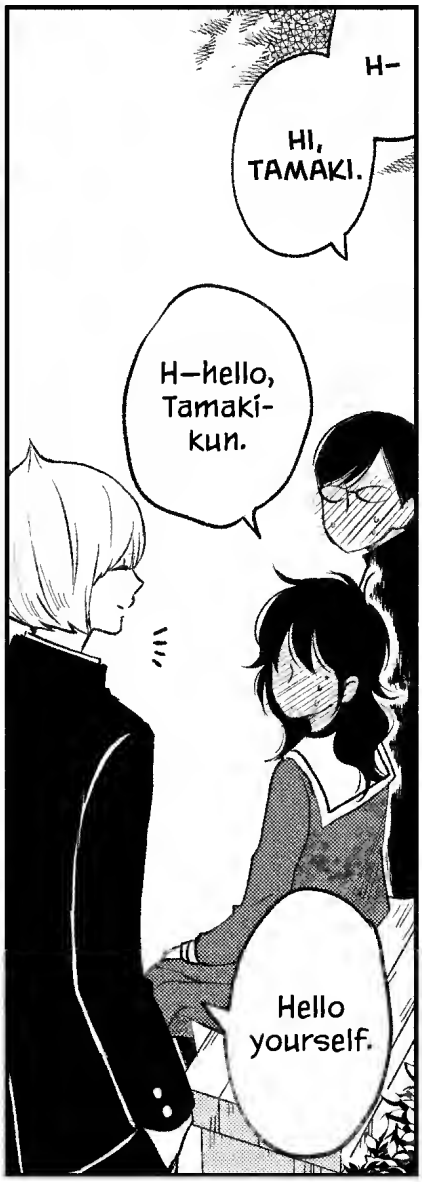
I know! Let me see your hand.

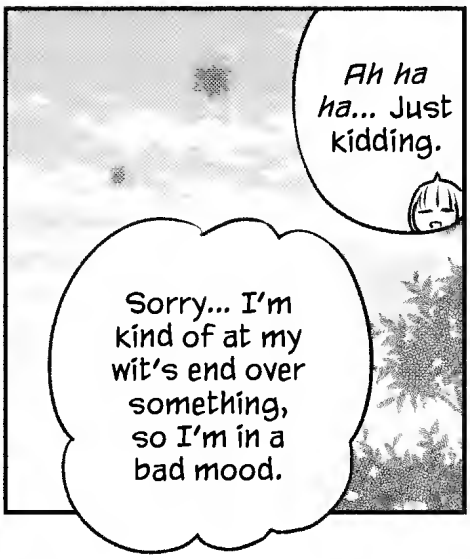
Wow!
You're so slender, but you're a man, after all!
Your hands are even bigger than my bro-ther's!
BLUSH
...THAT SO?
IS...
OH.
O-
BLUSHHH
IT'S OKAY ...
S-
sorry...

ep. 11 The Tempest that is Romance

So, on this fine day, in full view of the general public...
...what are you two doing?

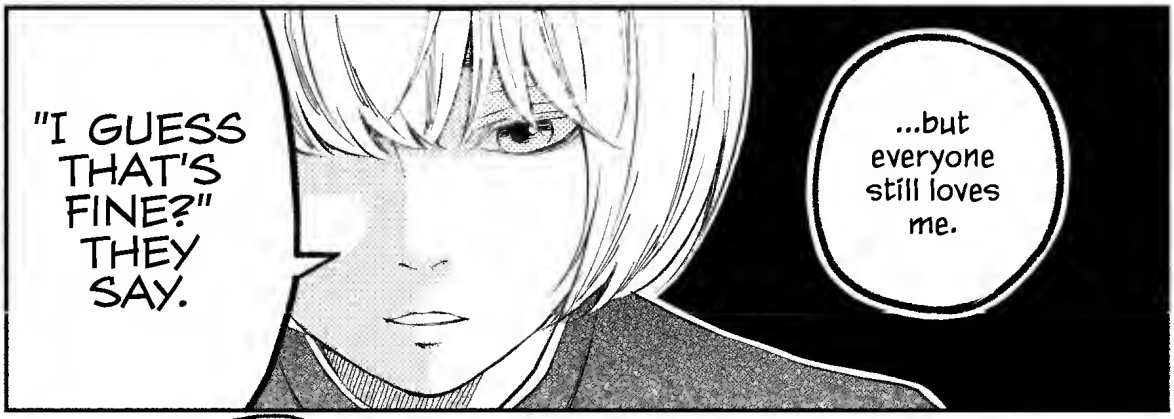
Hey, Azuma-kun...
Just now, you thought, "Aizawa-san is really cute when she's in such a good mood," right?
You wanted to hug her, right?
Quit that!

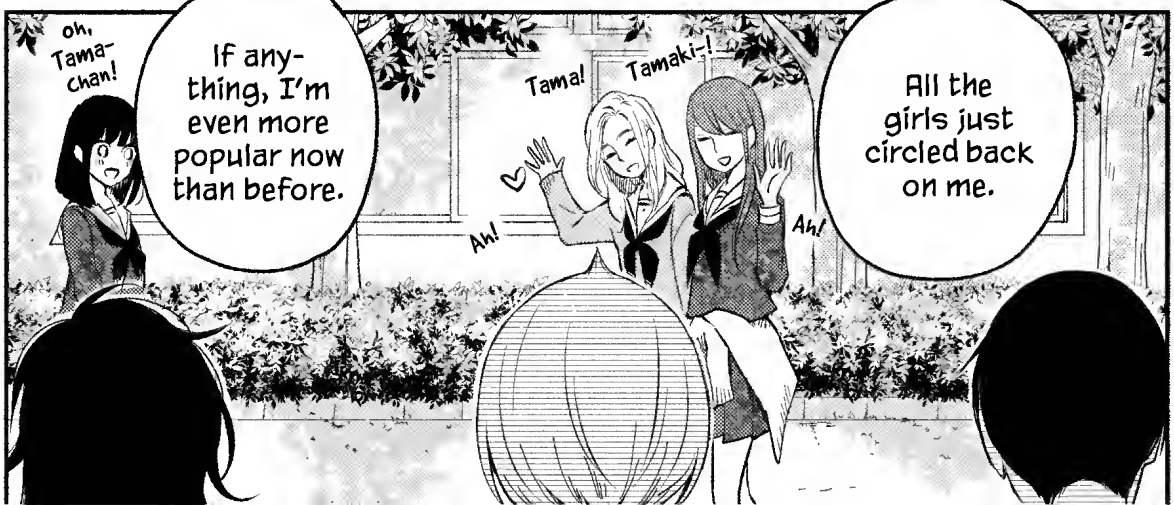

H-
HI, TAMAKI.
H-hello, Tamaki-kun.
Hello yourself.


Ah ha ha... Just kidding.
Sorry... I'm kind of at my wit's end over something, so I'm in a bad mood.

Your wit's end?
What could a popular person like you possibly be troubled about?
Well... thanks to the advice you both gave me before...
...I changed my hairstyle and my outlook, removing the first stone from the path leading away from my old, lukewarm life.

It's really troubling.

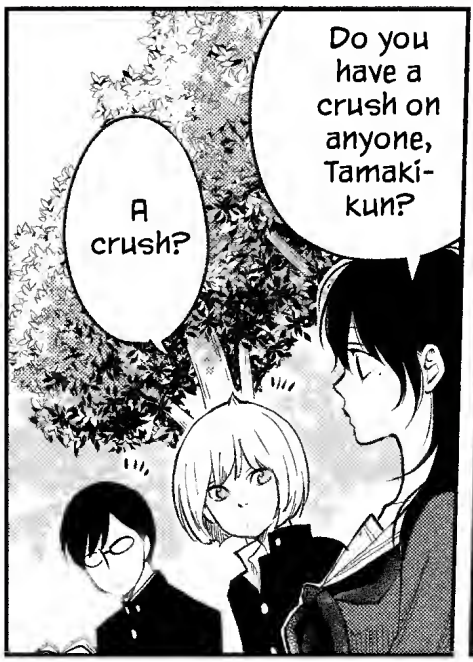

"I GUESS THAT'S FINE?" THEY SAY.
...but everyone still loves me.

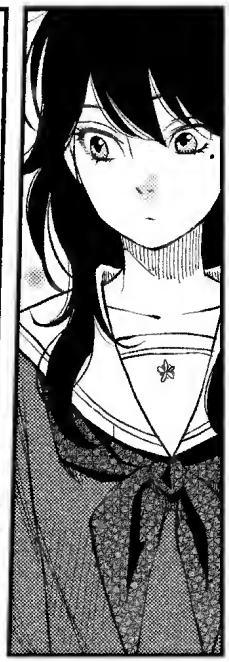

Oh, Tama-chan!
If anything, I'm even more popular now than before.
Tama!
Tamaki-!
Ah!
Ah!
All the girls just circled back on me.

A-AIZAWA-SAN?!
Something about that is really irritating.
I don't get why they all like me so much...
I just don't understand girls.
Something about that is really irritating.
Is it just because I'm good-looking with a little personality on top?
You know, sometimes you're unusually harsh towards Tamaki, Aizawa-san...
Sorry... It's just that whenever I talk to Tamaki-kun, I remember my old dog...
My silly Justine...
I loved that golden retriever.
Why does Tamaki look happy about this?
OH, IS IT? I'M SORRY!
WHICH PART?
MAYBE IT'S THE PART WHERE YOU EXPLOIT YOUR NAIVE CHARM TO HUMBLE-BRAG ABOUT HOW EVERYONE LIKES YOU!

They like me without me doing anything special.

Isn't it strange to fall in love over nothing?





I see what you mean.
It may be privileged of me to say, but being popular must be hard.
Even I want to put in a little effort now and then.

Rather than put in effort to make a large number of people fall out of love with you...
...I think it might be better to put in effort to get one specific person to like you.
A crush, huh?
I like all of them!
There's no way I'd be able to choose just one!
This boy is hopeless! He's unashamedly trying to create a harem!
SMILE
Hey. Isn't the problem on your end, then?
You think? Well... do you have a crush, Azuma-kun?
Ah!
BA-DUM!
Not really, no.
Ah...
CRUSHED
DING DOOOONG
Ooh, there's the bell.
A crush, huh...
Justine... thanks to you, I just experienced pointless heartbreak...

That's a...
...rather compelling point, isn't it...

It's the AV room next, right, Nozomin?
That's right, Hamarin.
Go on ahead without me. I have to carry some stuff for the teacher.
Want some help?
Nah. It's pretty light.
I'll catch up soon.
What's wrong, Tamaki? You look down.
I'm up against a brick wall...
Urgh... Sounds serious.

*SOCIAL STUDIES DEPT. STORAGE ROOM
社会準備室
*HARVEST FESTIVAL
収穫祭
How bright...
...and cheerful...
I envy them...
They seem so carefree.
People like that have it easy.
Excuse me...
...never mind. There's nobody here.
Lost & Found

Nah, this doesn't suit me at all.
If anybody saw me like this, I'd literally die.
SHK
Huh?

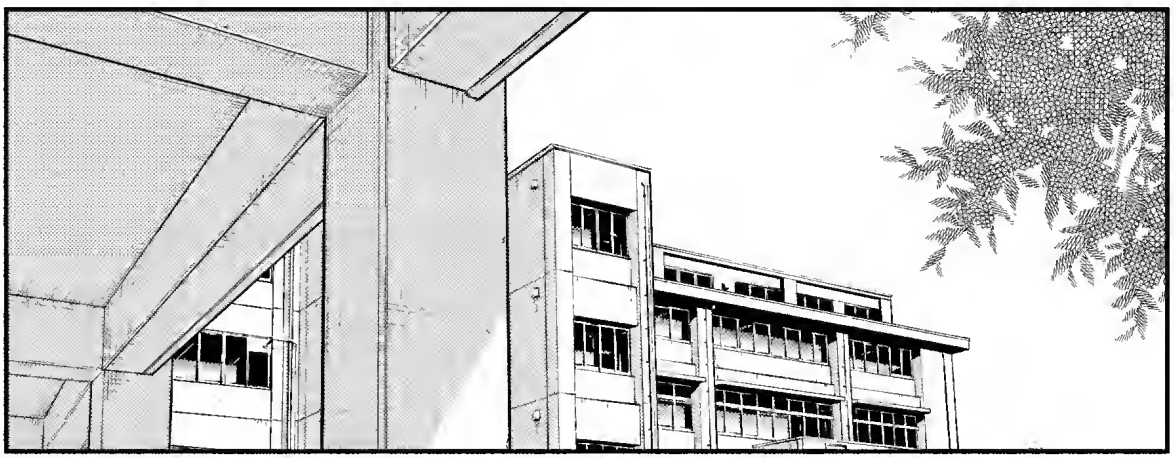
WHOOSH
Are you serious?
Why call me here, then?
...

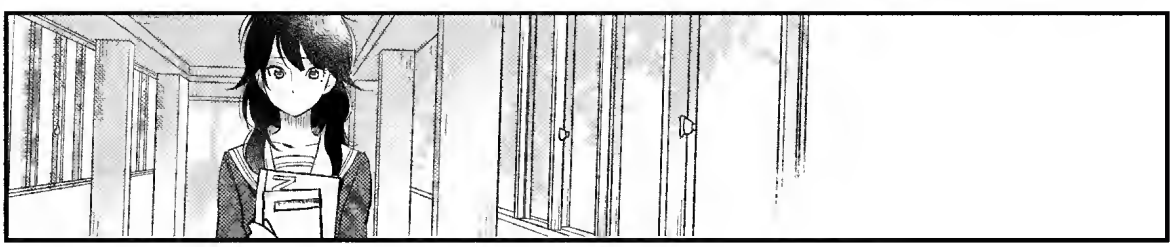
Is Noro-sensei around?
I—
I—
I DON'T KNOW ?!

It's not mine.
I don't know anything about it.

Hey ...
Um ...
?!
You left this.

You think so?
I think it would look pretty good.
Huh?
Do I look like the kind of person who'd own something like that?!
It wouldn't suit me at all!
Weren't you just...

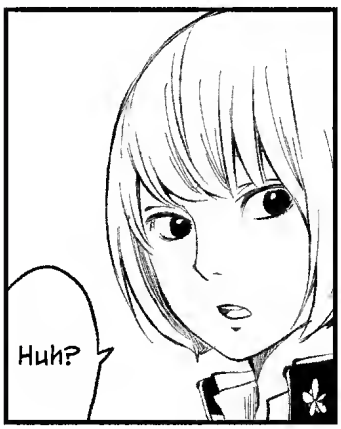


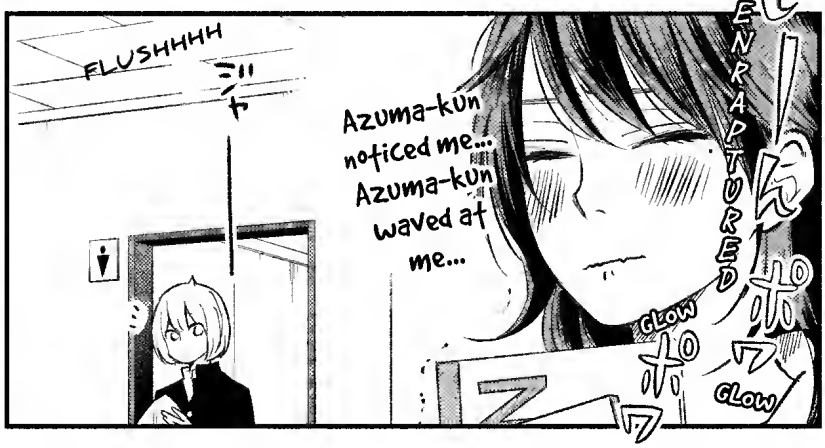


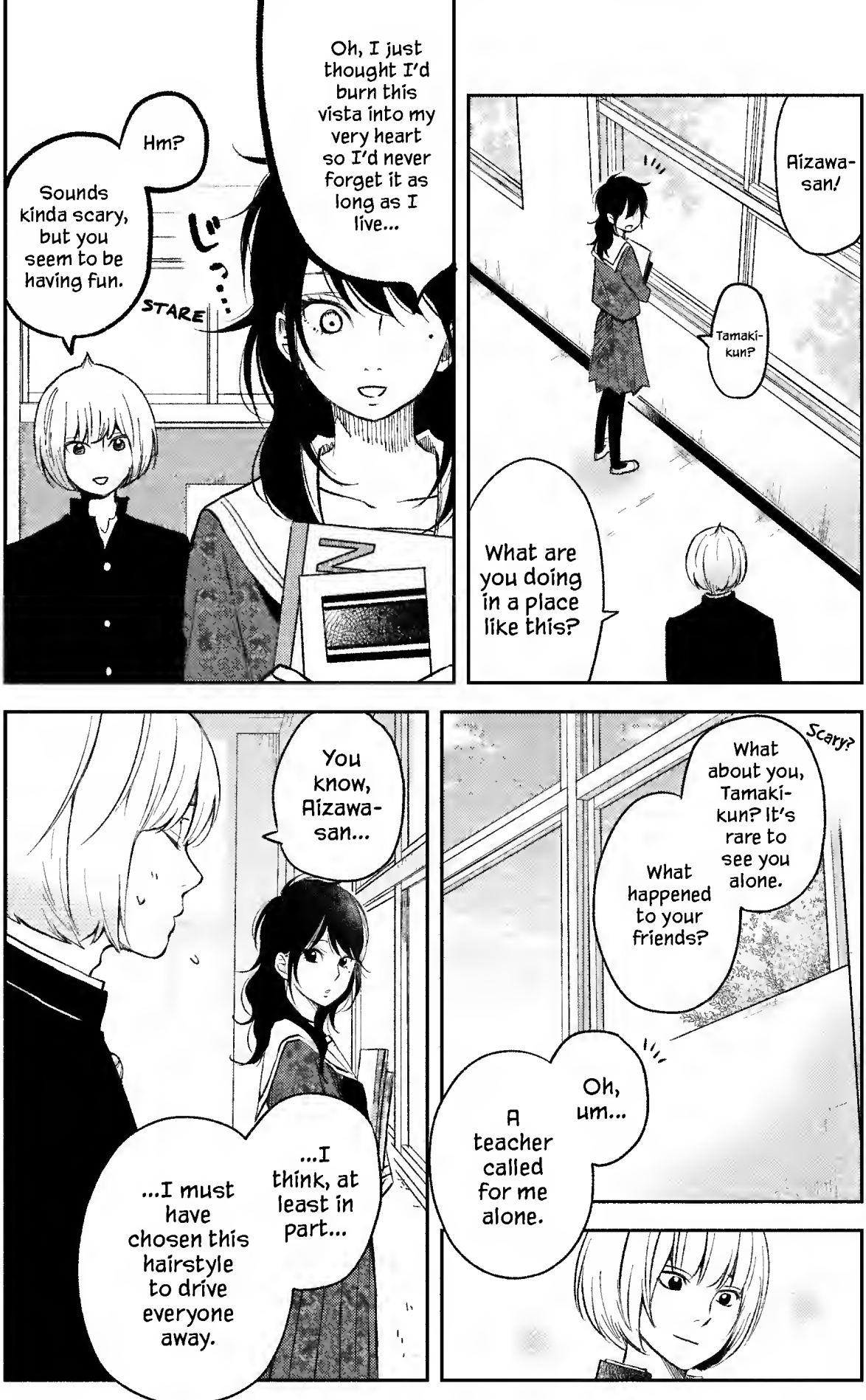
Well... do you have a crush, Azuma-kun?
Not really, no.
I realize now...
I was never even under conside-ration.
I wonder ...
...did Azuma-kun completely forget that I even confessed to him?
I feel insecure...
In my own way...
...I tried my best to summon up my courage and confess, but...
Ah! It's Azuma-kun!
Aah... he's so wonderful, even now...
THROB
That's fine. I'll just keep watching him from afar and let my disastrous confession remain forgotten...
Ah!

A-Aizawa-san!
Hey!

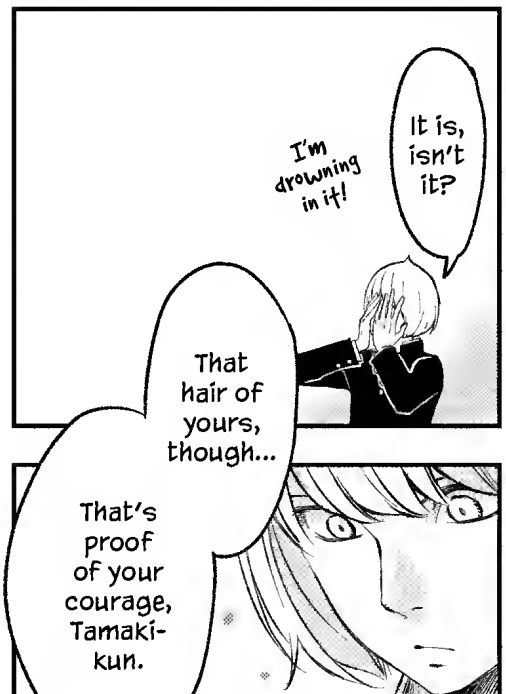
...I'm glad I worked up the courage to confess.
In the end...
Ah...
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ
BA-DUM
ドキ...
BA-DUM
ドキ


Huh?

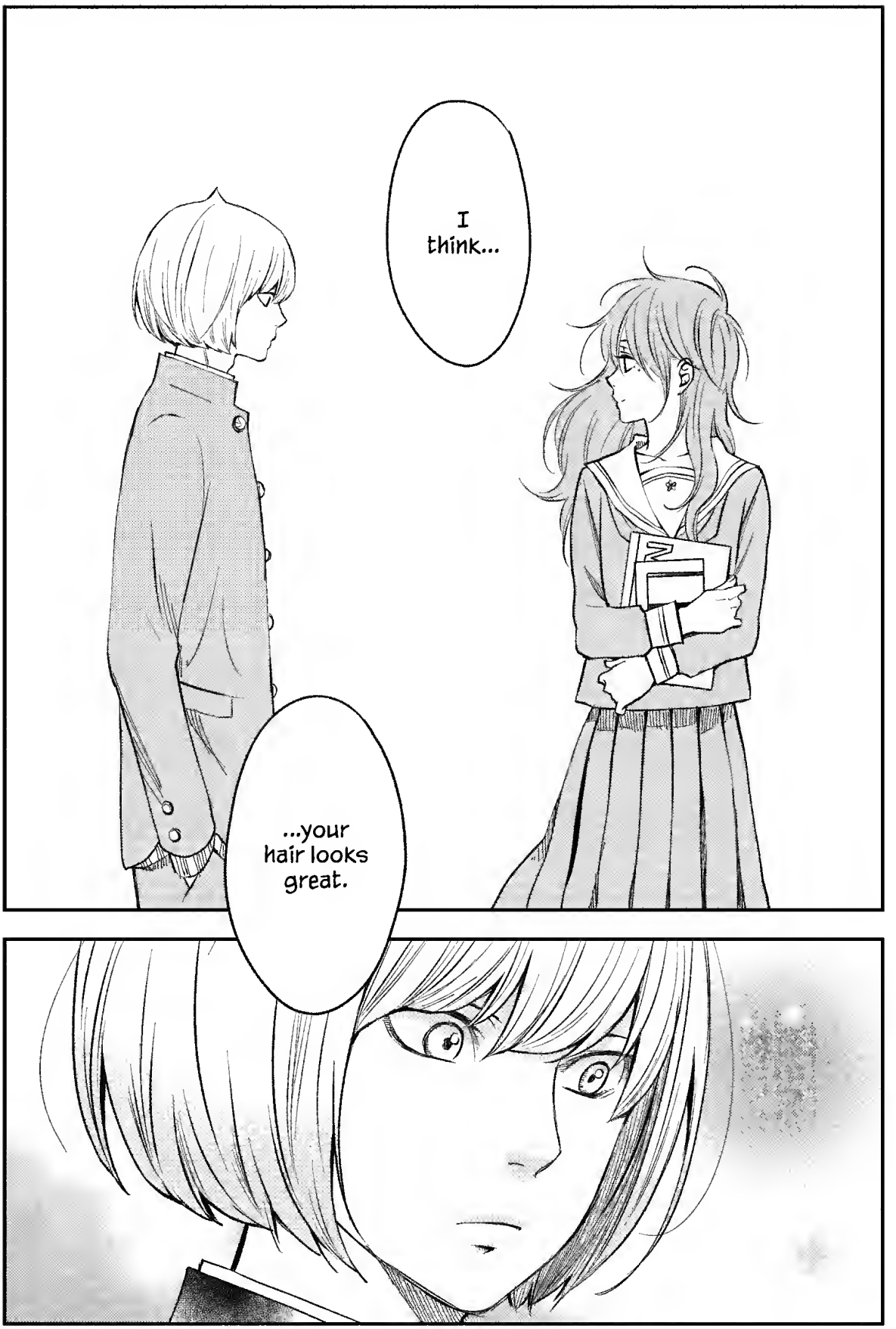

FLUSHHHH
Azuma-kun noticed me... Azuma-kun waved at me...
ENRAPTURED
GLOW
GLOW

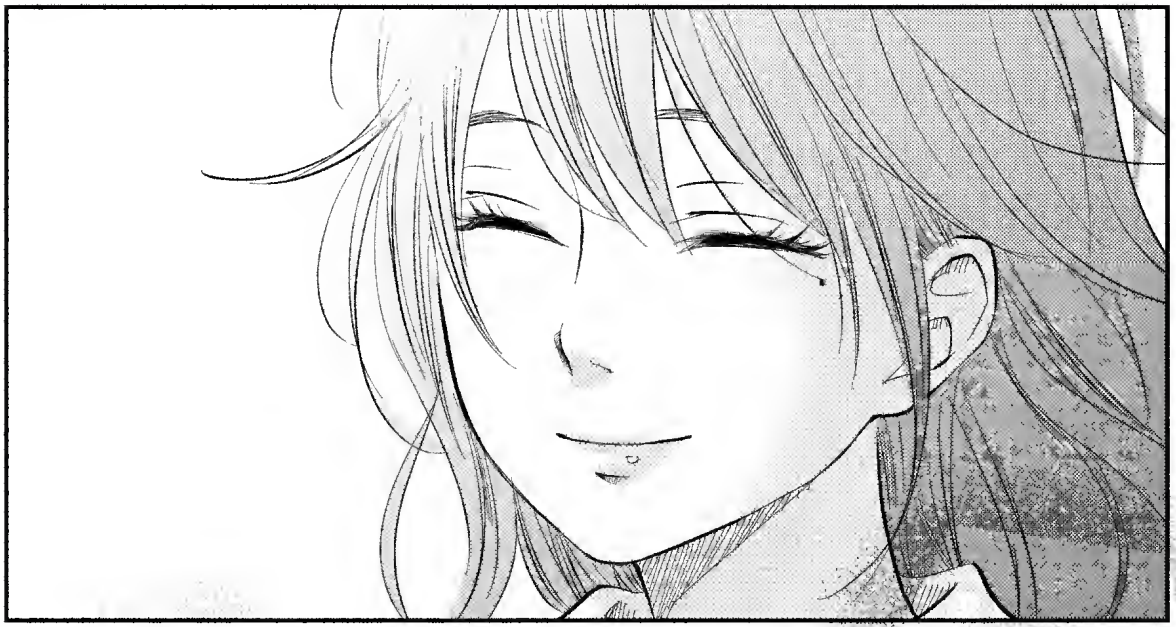

Oh, I just thought I'd burn this vista into my very heart so I'd never forget it as long as I live...
Hm?
Sounds kinda scary, but you seem to be having fun.
じっ...
STARE
Aizawa-san!
Tamaki-kun?
What are you doing in a place like this?
Scary?
What about you, Tamaki-kun? It's rare to see you alone.
What happened to your friends?
Oh, um...
A teacher called for me alone.
You know, Aizawa-san...
...I think, at least in part...
...I must have chosen this hairstyle to drive everyone away.

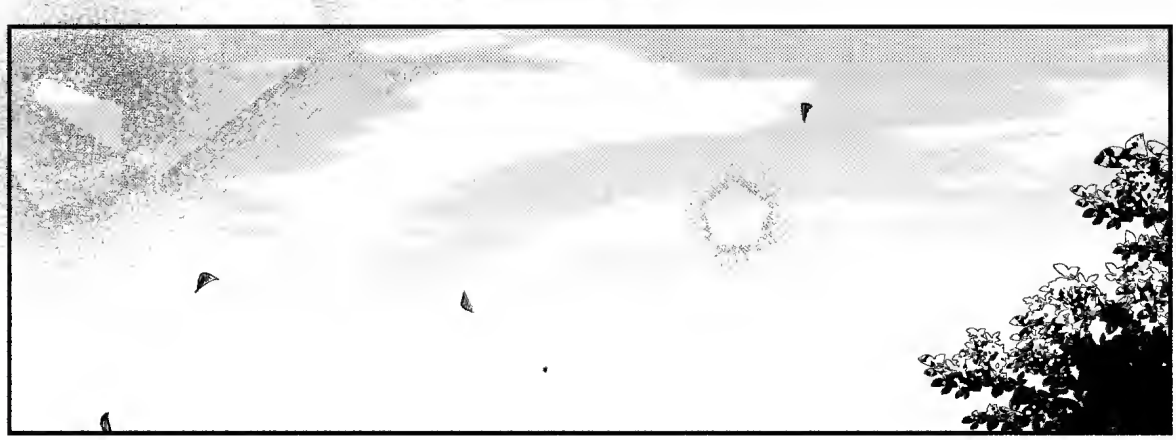
But nobody took it that way.
When I thought about it, I realized that...
... inexcusably...
...I always relied on the people around me to do everything for me.
I thought that that wasn't a very good way to live, so I tried to change...


It is, isn't it?
I'm drowning in it!
That hair of yours, though...
That's proof of your courage, Tamaki-kun.

But in the end, you can't change human nature!
So now I'm just basking in the glow of everyone showering me with affection and attention!
THAT'S JUST THE LUKEWARM-NESS WE DISCUSSED BEFORE!


I think...
...your hair looks great.





24人のビリー
*The Minds of Billy Milligan
by Daniel Keyes
It's gotten cold again.

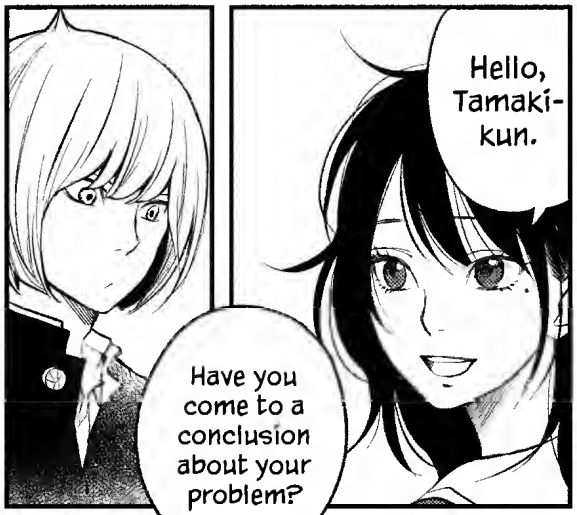
I'm sorry. I hope I'm not disturbing your reading.
No, don't worry. I was just about to start my lunch, anyway.
Hey, Azuma-kun!
Aizawa-san...
That scarf ...
It looks really nice.
Yeah ...
I got it from my aunt last year.
It was a little chilly this morning...

...
Once it gets even colder...
...we won't really be able to use the courtyard.
I wouldn't want you to catch cold, Azuma-kun.
In that case...
...we'd better think about another change of venue.

Don't worry.
I know ...
...just the place.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
We just need to meet somewhere else!

Azuma-kun, you're a genius!
She's so cute...

URK!
キリ
YOU TWO HAVING FUN FLIRTING?


Hello, Tamaki-kun.
Have you come to a conclusion about your problem?

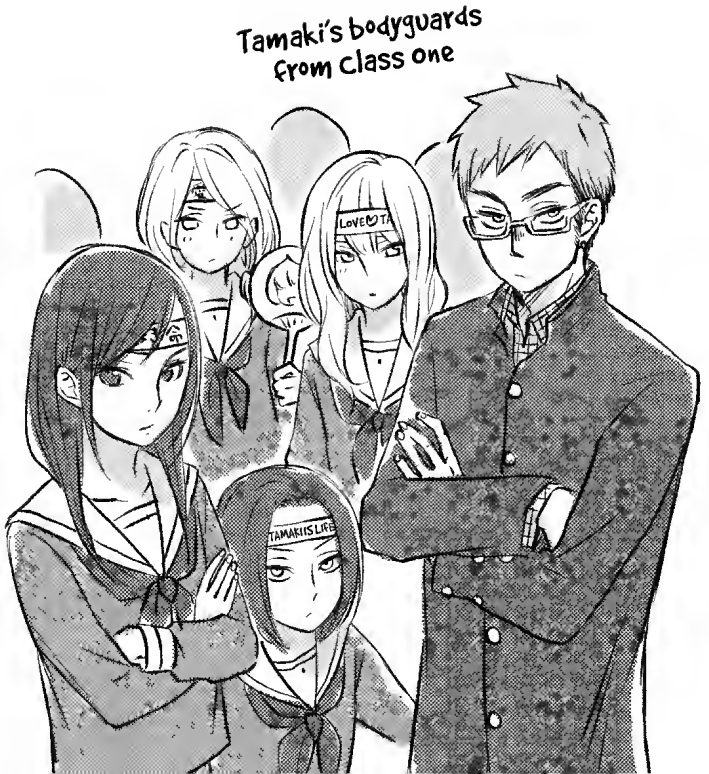
What do you think?
Just now, you thought Aizawa-san was really cute again, right?
Hm?
... Shut up.

Hmm...
Well...
Yeah.
More or less.
When you think about the size of the universe...
...my problems don't seem very big at all.
GLOW
GLOW
GLOW

Oh! What's wrong, Aizawa-san? Do you have a stomach ache?
Want some ginger?
No, I'm fine. Thank you, Tamaki-kun.
I'm right next to Azuma-kun! I'm right next to Azuma-kun!
BLUUUUSH
GLOW
GLOW
...
Thank you, Tamaki-kun.

Huh?
Love happens according to the beat of its own whimsical drum...
Our Precious Conversations continues!
The no-holds-barred love battle begins now!

To be continued in volume three!


Tamaki's bodyguards from class one
LOVE♡TA
TAMAKI IS LIFE

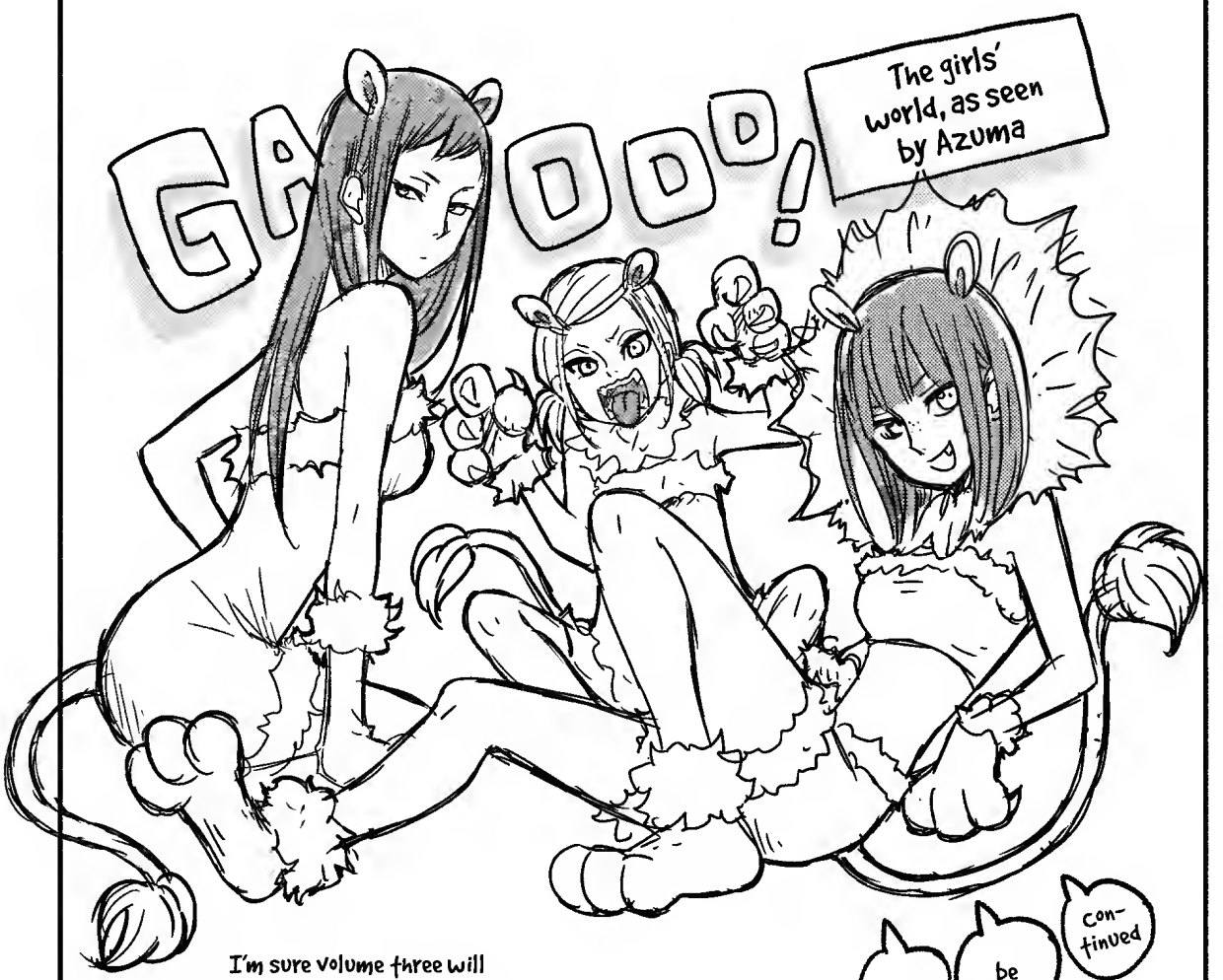
THE MAN CALLED TAMAKI
CRUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
Even though I'm at school, I can eat snacks or not do my homework, and nobody wants to scold me...
If this keeps up, I'll turn out rotten for sure.
Hey, can you be strict with me for a bit?
Be really harsh on me.
...
Don't ask me to do it. Just do it yourself.
All I care about is your looks.
Oh? You like how I look that much?
Aah, I told you to scold me, not praise me!
See? Whatever I say to you is going to bounce off that positive attitude of yours.

I wonder how he does his hair...
Like I'm saying, clockwise is good, sure, but sometimes counter-clockwise is the way to go.
CHIPS

AFTERWARD

Thank you very much for purchasing volume two!

I'm really relieved we were able to release it without a hitch.



I'm sure volume three will include plenty of unproductive conversations between men and women. (probably)

If we can meet again in volume three, it would make me very happy.

Someday, some month, somewhere.

to be continued in volume three

Robico

In the next volume of Our Precious Conversations...
Azuma-kun...
What will the setting of volume three be?
I can't tell you yet, but...
The next place is going to be a calm one, so by all means, let's continue having conversations.
Just the two of us.
HOLD UP!
SLAM
Azuma! You yourself said it back in volume one...
There's no way you two'll be left alone!
THROB

That's narration text! I didn't say it, I only thought it!
How do you know about that?!
No! That was...
But the author is being wishy-washy.
If it were up to me, Nonomi would like not just the male lead, but also background characters boy A and boy B, and on top of that, boy C and boy D would themselves be in love with Nonomi!
That would be sure to sell millions!
The new characters should be involved, too. You have to make a strong impact!
Azuma-kun's problematic words from volume one
The head of editorial said we could put whatever we want in the preview!
Right?
THAT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF A "PREVIEW"!

I'd like to see the bond between us deepen.
I hope there's more about the friendship between me and Nozomin in volume three...
If only we put in more effort...
Ugh. So what? What do you want us to put here?
IRRITATED

What will happen in the no-holds-barred love battle of volume three?!

OUR Precious CONVERSATIONS ③

Our Precious Conversations 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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